Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Volume 4: Outline Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan

MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

December 2025

MarramWind

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Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1.1 This Outline Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan (FMMCP) has been produced along with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and aims to describe the mitigation, monitoring and communication proposed by the MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm Project (hereafter referred to as 'the Project') to avoid and minimise adverse effects on commercial fisheries.

1.1.1.2 This Outline FMMCP is related to the mitigation measure M-048 of **Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Commitments Register**.

1.1.1.3 The FMMCP is a live document and may be subject to updates as the Project develops and more information becomes available.

1.2 Project background

1.2.1.1 The Project is wholly owned by ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited (SPR). MarramWind Limited, a subsidiary of SPR, is the "Applicant" for the Project.

1.2.1.2 The Project is a proposed floating wind farm located in the North Sea, with a grid connection capacity of up to 3 gigawatts (GW). The location of the Project is determined by the Option Area Agreement (OAA), which is the spatial boundary of the Northeast 7 (NE7) Plan Option within which the electricity generating infrastructure will be located. The NE7 Plan Option is located north-east of Rattray Head on the Aberdeenshire coast in north-east Scotland, approximately 75 kilometres (km) at its nearest point to shore and 110km at its furthest point. An Option to Lease Agreement (OLA) for the Project within the NE7 Plan Option was signed in April 2022.

1.2.1.3 The overall duration of construction of the offshore infrastructure is anticipated to be up to 12 years. This will be subject to the final grid connection date, supply chain discussions and further site surveys. It is anticipated that construction of the Project would commence in 2030. The Project will be delivered in phases. It is expected that the first phase of the Project would become fully operational in 2037 following commissioning of the WTGs for phase one. It is anticipated the second phase of the Project would become fully operational in 2040 and the third phase in 2043. The operational lifetime of the Project for each phase is expected to be around 35 years.

1.2.1.4 A summary of the Project is provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction** and a comprehensive description of the Project is provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 4: Project Description**.

1.2.1.5 The Project's offshore infrastructure, located seaward of Mean High Water Springs (MHWS), may include the following:

- wind turbine generators (WTGs), including floating units (platforms and station keeping system);
- array cables;
- subsea distribution centres;
- subsea substations;
- offshore substations;

- reactive compensation platform(s) (if required); and
- offshore export cables to connect the wind farm area to the landfall(s).

1.2.1.6 The study area of relevance to commercial fisheries includes the OAA and the export cable corridor which are illustrated in **Volume 2, Figure 14.1: Commercial fisheries regional and local study areas**.

1.2.1.7 The EIA Report accompanies applications for offshore consents, licences and permissions for the Project to Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) under Section 36 (s.36) of the Electricity Act 1989, the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, for the offshore infrastructure seaward of MHWS.

1.2.1.8 The EIA Report also accompanies an application to Aberdeenshire Council for Planning Permission in Principle consent under The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, for the onshore infrastructure landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS).

1.2.1.9 There are four sets of EIA regulations applicable to the Project: the Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 for offshore generating stations requiring s.36 consent; the Marine Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and the Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 for marine licence applications within Scottish territorial waters (0 to 12 nautical miles) and offshore waters (12 to 200 nautical miles) respectively; and the Town and Country Planning (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 for planning applications submitted to Aberdeenshire Council for onshore infrastructure located landward of MLWS.

1.3 Purpose of the Outline FMMCP

1.3.1.1 The purpose of this Outline FMMCP is to describe the mitigation, monitoring and communication proposed to be implemented by the Project to avoid and minimise adverse effects on commercial fisheries.

1.3.1.2 This Outline FMMCP documents the Applicant´s approach to liaison and coexistence with the fishing industry and outlines commitments to mitigation which are of relevance to commercial fisheries, as described in the EIA Report, as well as its linkages with other offshore consent plans.

1.3.1.3 Following consent award, the FMMCP will be updated with specific reference to how relevant Section 36 consents and marine licence conditions have been addressed.

1.3.1.4 The FMMCP will be subject to additional updates throughout the life of the Project as and where required, and in consultation with fisheries stakeholders.

1.3.1.5 The FMMCP covers the construction and operational stage of the Project. Decommissioning for the Project will be undertaken under a separate marine licence which will require the production of a separate FMMCP at that time.

1.4 Relevant guidance

1.4.1.1 This Outline FMMCP has been prepared with consideration of relevant commercial fisheries guidance, including:

- Marine Directorate Guidance for offshore renewable energy projects on marine licensing and consenting requirements that are administered by the Marine Directorate (Marine Directorate, 2025);
- Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) Best Practice Guidance for Fisheries Liaison with Offshore Renewables Developments (2025);

- Scottish Government Offshore windfarms - monitoring impacts on the commercial fishing industry: good practice guidance (Scottish Government, 2025);
- Scottish Government Assessing fisheries displacement by other licensed marine activities: good practice guidance (Marine Scotland Science, 2022);
- FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Disruption Settlements and Community Funds. FLOWW (2015);
- Scottish Government National Marine Plan (Scottish Government, 2015);
- FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments. Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison. FLOWW (2014); and
- Collaborative Offshore Wind Research into the Environment (COWRIE) Options and Opportunities for Marine Fisheries Mitigation Associated with Windfarms (Blyth-Skyrme, 2010).

1.4.1.2 Where updates to existing guidelines or additional relevant guidelines are published, these would be accounted for in future FMMCP revisions as applicable.

1.5 Structure of the Outline FMMCP

1.5.1.1 The structure of this Outline FMMCP is the following:

- **Section 1: Introduction:** This Section provides an overview of the Project, and identifies the purpose and aims of the FMMCP, as well as the consent compliance and linkages to other consent plans.
- **Section 2: Fisheries Overview:** This Section provides an overview of commercial fishing activity within and surrounding the Project, and lists the impacts identified for commercial fisheries receptors in the EIA Report and the key outcomes of the assessment
- **Section 3: Engagement and Consultation:** This Section provides a summary of the engagement and consultation between the Applicant and commercial fisheries stakeholders that has taken place to date.
- **Section 4: Communication Strategy:** This Section sets out the Applicant's approach to communicating and liaising with the commercial fishing sector and describes roles and responsibilities and information dissemination timescales.
- **Section 5: Management, Mitigation and Monitoring Measures:** This Section sets out the Applicant's approach to managing, mitigating and monitoring the potential impacts of the Project on commercial fishing.

1.6 Other related implementation plans

1.6.1.1 This Outline FMMCP sets out specific procedures relating to the mitigation of adverse effects on the commercial fishing sector. It is part of a group of offshore consent plans, required under the offshore consent application, that provide the framework for the management of the Project. Other relevant offshore Implementation Plans required by the Project, and their linkages with this Outline FMMCP are outlined in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 Other related implementation plans to the FMMCP

Implementation plan	Linkage with FMMCP
Cable Plan	The **Cable Plan** will provide details on cable specification, installation and cable protection, their interactions with the environment and safety consideration. The approach for analysis of geophysical data in the context of benthic habitats will help inform cable routing. **Volume 4: Outline Cable Plan** has been submitted with the application.
Construction Method Statement (CMS)	The **CMS** will include: details of the commence dates, duration and phasing of key elements of construction, working areas, the construction procedures and good working practices; details of the roles and responsibilities; and details of how the construction related mitigation step proposed are to be delivered. **Volume 4: Outline Construction Method Statement** has been submitted with the application.
Development Specification and Layout Plan (DSLP)	The **DSLP** sets out the finalised layout of WTGs and cables, including key information on dimensions, specifications, and other technical parameters along with information and on design constraints such as seabed conditions and bathymetry.
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	The **EMP** sets out the environmental management framework for the construction and operation of the Project. With regard to linkage with the FMMCP, it sets out procedures for reporting of dropped objects and pollution response procedures. **Volume 4: Outline Environmental Management Plan** has been submitted with the application.
Lighting and Marking Plan (LMP)	The **LMP** details of lighting and marking of the Project during construction and operation. Of relevance to the FMMCP, it outlines how the Project will be marked and lit in order to allow safe marine navigation. **Volume 4: Outline Lighting and Marking Plan** has been submitted with the application.
Project Environmental Monitoring Programme (PEMP)	The **PEMP** will set out the Applicant's commitments to monitoring the potential effects of the Project on key receptors and provide detail on how that monitoring will be delivered across all stages of the Project (pre-construction, construction, operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning). **Volume 4: Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme** has been submitted with the application.
Vessel Management and Navigational Safety Plan (VMNSP)	The **VMNSP** confirms the types and numbers of vessels that will be engaged on the Project, considers vessel coordination including indicative transit route planning, describes measures put in place by the Project related to navigational safety, including information on Safety Zones, charting construction buoyage, temporary lighting and marking and provides a means of notification of Project activity to other sea users (e.g. via Notice to Mariners). **Volume 4: Outline Vessel Management and Navigational Safety Plan** has been submitted with the application.

2. Fisheries Overview

2.1.1.1 This Outline FMMCP has been informed by the data collected to support the EIA Report, together with engagement with commercial fisheries stakeholders.

2.1.1.2 An overview of the commercial fishing fleets active in the areas relevant to the OAA and offshore export cable corridor is presented in **Table 2.1**.

2.1.1.3 Full details of the analysis undertaken to develop the Commercial Fisheries baseline, as well as detailed information on each fleet is provided in **Volume 3, Appendix 14.1: Commercial Fisheries Technical Report**.

Table 2.1 Summary of fishing fleets active in the study areas, and identified as commercial fisheries EIA receptors

Fishing fleet	Target species	OAA	Offshore export cable corridor
UK fishing fleets			
UK demersal otter trawl	Nephrops, haddock, monkfish, squid.	Primarily Scottish registered vessels, over 15m length targeting Nephrops – high levels of activity in the local study area, with distinct area of greater activity in the east.	Primarily Scottish registered vessels, over 15m length – moderate to high levels of activity across the offshore export cable corridor.
UK pelagic trawl and purse seine	Mackerel, herring,	Scottish, English and Northern Irish registered vessels, over 40m length – low levels of activity at eastern boundary, primarily outside OAA.	Scottish, English and Northern Irish registered vessels, over 40m length – very low levels of activity.
UK potting	Brown crabs, lobsters, velvet crabs.	Scottish registered vessels, under and over 10m length – low levels of activity.	Scottish registered vessels, under and over 10m length – moderate to high levels of activity across the inshore section of the offshore export cable corridor.
UK dredge	King scallop.	No notable activity.	Primarily Scottish registered vessels, over 15m length – moderate to high levels of activity across the inshore section of the offshore export cable corridor.
UK beam trawl	Whitefish and flatfish species	No notable activity.	No notable activity.
UK demersal seine	Haddock, whiting.	Scottish registered vessels, over 15m length – low levels of activity.	Scottish registered vessels, over 15m length – variable levels of activity across the

Fishing fleet	Target species	OAA	Offshore export cable corridor
			offshore export cable corridor.
UK jigging (hook and line)	Mackerel	No notable activity.	Scottish registered vessels, under 12m length – variable levels of activity across the inshore section of the offshore export cable corridor.
Non-UK fishing fleets			
Non-UK pelagic trawl	Mackerel, herring	Sporadic activity by vessels registered in Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Lithuania and Sweden.	Sporadic activity by vessels registered in Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Lithuania and Sweden.

3. Engagement and Consultation

3.1.1.1 Engagement with commercial fisheries stakeholders, organisations and representatives has been ongoing throughout the development of the Project via the appointment of a Company Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO), as well as directly through the Project's Stakeholder Manager. Key consultation undertaken to date includes:

- ongoing direct engagement through the CFLO;
- engagement meetings with commercial fisheries stakeholders (**Table 3.1**); and
- Scoping Opinion representations.

Table 3.1 Record of commercial fisheries meetings

Date	Stakeholder
11 March 2022	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF), Scottish Whitefish Producers Association (SWFPA).
06 June 2022	SFF, SWFPA.
16 November 2022	SFF, SWFPA, Community Inshore Fisheries Alliance.
31 July 2023	SWFPA
07 March 2023	SFF, SWFPA.
12 January 2024	SFF, SWFPA, SPFA.
29 January 2024	SPFA
06 June 2024	Statutory consultation event workshops (inshore fishers and SFF SPFA).
24 September 2024	SFF, SWFPA.
19 March 2025	SFF, SWFPA, SPFA.
25 June 2025	SFF, SWFPA.
03 July 2025	SFF.
24 July 2025	Belgian fisheries (Rederscentrale).
04 August 2025	Dutch fisheries (VisNed).
26 August 2025	French fisheries (FROM Nord).
28 August 2025	Danish fisheries (Danmarks Fiskeriforening Producent Organisation).

3.1.1.2 Consultation and engagement between the Applicant and the fishing industry is ongoing and will continue post-consent award. Further details around engagement with the fishing industry is contained with the **Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report**.

4. Communication Strategy

4.1 Roles and responsibilities

4.1.1.1 The roles and responsibilities of the fishing liaison roles proposed for the Project are summarised below.

4.1.1 The Applicant

4.1.1.1 The primary responsibilities of the Applicant are:

- to construct and operate the Project with due regard to minimising disturbance to fishing activities and facilitating successful coexistence;
- to maintain employment of a CFLO throughout the construction of the Project and as reasonably necessary through its operation and establish other relevant liaison roles (i.e. Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officers (OFLOs), Fishing Industry Representatives (FIRs)) as appropriate; and
- to provide information on a timely manner to the CFLO, fisheries stakeholders and other liaison roles (i.e. FIRs and OFLOs) as appropriate in the interest of preventing conflict and facilitating coexistence

4.1.2 Company Fisheries Liaison Officer

4.1.2.1 The primary responsibilities of the CFLO are:

- to be the key point of contact for fisheries stakeholders;
- to maintain the fisheries stakeholder database;
- to identify individual commercial vessels and skippers operating in areas relevant to the Project;
- to establish and maintain a strong working relationship with the fishing industry;
- to have a detailed understanding and awareness of the fishing industry;
- to understand the potential impact of the Project's related activities on fishing; and
- to communicate clearly and accurately with the fishing industry on behalf of the Project.

4.1.2.2 In order to perform the responsibilities outlined above, the CFLO may:

- prepare and maintain a project specific register of local fishermen's groups and associations;
- engage in consultation with the fishing community to understand any concerns with the Project and associated survey and construction activities; and
- arrange or attend as necessary, meetings for fishermen in order to:
  - promulgate information on the project design envelope and the construction programme, and provide updates on any changes to the project throughout the planning stage;
  - gather fisher's views on effects of projects on their working practices;
  - work with fishers to resolve any issues or conflicts arising where practicable; and

- provide contractors with guidance on fishing activities within the work areas, including information on the types of fishing gear that may be present, any relevant operational sensitivities, and the contact details needed to communicate with fishing vessels at sea;
- circulate information to fisheries stakeholders on reported dropped objects;
- share information on exposed cables and any other potential safety hazards with the fisheries;
- support the Project in managing financial arrangements, such as compensation for fishermen due to disruption; and
- continue dialogue throughout the project planning stage and actual construction and operation.

4.1.2.3 The CFLO is based onshore and generally works regular office hours. Therefore, they are not the right contact for any offshore, non-emergency fisheries-related situation that requires an immediate or short-term response. In such cases, the initial point of contact should be the Project´s Marine Control Centre, who, together with the vessel master, can provide assistance around the clock.

4.1.3 Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer

4.1.3.1 OFLOs may be required onboard Project-associated vessels on an ad hoc basis to facilitate liaison with the fishing industry during certain at-sea activities. In the appointment of an OFLO it is recognised that local fisher's knowledge of fishing practices and vessels in the area can reduce interactions between fishing activity and construction works. The primary responsibilities of OFLOs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- act as an effective communication point between the Project and the fishing industry during offshore activities.
- regularly broadcast and communicate relevant information on Project vessel´s activities, to fishers whilst at sea (i.e. survey / construction vessels location, vessel operations and schedules, safety zones, advisory safe passage distances, etc).
- maintain contact and provide relevant updates and information to the Applicant and the CFLO with regards to work progress and any issues encountered as appropriate.

4.1.4 Fishing Industry Representative

4.1.4.1 FIRs act as a single onshore contact point within the fishing community, who can represent an un-biased fishing industry view of the region within which the Project is located. FIRs may be employed to engage with fisheries within a particular geographical area and / or have specialist knowledge of certain types of fishing activity. FIRs specific to the Project may be identified and appointed, where deemed appropriate following consultation and discussion with fisheries stakeholders.

4.1.4.2 The primary responsibilities of FIRs include:

- forming the principal link between the fishing community and the Applicant who can reliably transmit fishing industry views;
- providing the Applicant with guidance on fishing activity in the area and draw attention to particular fishing sensitivities;
- liaising with fishing skippers with the objective of relaying accurately their concerns regarding site sensitivities and any other issues back to the CFLO;

- disseminating updated project information to fishermen and communicating any changes that occur;
- promoting methods of work which minimise disturbance to fishing;
- monitoring fishing activities in the Project; and
- advising fishing vessels of works activities and engaging with vessels who do not adhere to safe working practices.

4.1.5 Guidance for fishers

4.1.5.1 The success of the FMMCP in facilitating coexistence will require open and transparent communication between the Applicant and the fishing industry and the support and engagement of both parties.

4.1.5.2 The fishing industry should engage the Applicant in a timely and constructive manner. For example, the industry should:

- communicate why and how they may be affected by the Project;
- attend meetings organised by the Applicant (when invited to do so);
- provide accurate data, knowledge and experience of the geographic area of interest;
- provide details of fishing gear locations within development areas and ensure gear is clearly marked;
- communicate proactively with the Applicant's offshore personnel (e.g. OFLOs) about fishing gear locations; and
- respond to formal regulatory and informal consultation opportunities.

4.2 Communication and information exchange

4.2.1 Overview

4.2.1.1 Information dissemination and continuous communication are key to fostering an ongoing productive working relationship with fisheries stakeholders. The Applicant will continue to disseminate information to all relevant parties as early as possible and will ensure effective lines of communication are maintained.

4.2.1.2 Timely communication will be maintained through emails, supplemented by formal written communication when necessary. Notices to Mariners (NTMs) will also be issued to provide information on the position of any relevant offshore activities and vessel movements associated with the Project. In addition, information via the Horizon Watch initiative will be shared as appropriate, guard vessels used where appropriate, and codes of good practice implemented at contracted vessels, including reference to their communications with fisheries stakeholders. Information on navigational safety measures and a summary of emergency responses and coordination arrangements, including in relation to fishing gear fastening protocols, will be included within the VMNSP.

4.2.2 Indicative information dissemination schedule

4.2.2.1 An indicative schedule for dissemination of information to the fishing industry is outlined in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1 Indicative scheduling of liaison and notice and information distribution

Activity / information to be disseminated	Timescale for distribution
Construction planning	Notices and information distribution, once available. Appropriate notice will be given prior to the commencement of construction activities.
Weekly Notice of Operations (WNoO)	A weekly notice providing a description of Project activities which are planned for the coming week, vessels involved in each activity and information on safety zones.
NtM **Kingfisher Bulletin**	Notices and information distribution not less than 14 days prior to survey or operational work mobilisation (where feasible).
Surveys or operational works which may require gear relocation or that may have potential to cause significant displacement to fishing activity	Notices and information distribution not less than 14 days prior to survey or operational work mobilisation (where feasible).
Unscheduled Liaison	Additional unscheduled liaison and consultation (e.g. meetings, phone calls, emails) will be undertaken by the CFLO as required to address issues and fishermen's concerns as they arise.

4.2.3 Guard vessels

4.2.3.1 During construction, guard vessel(s) will be deployed within the OAA and the offshore export cable corridor where appropriate. The role of the guard vessel(s) is to facilitate safe construction through offshore liaison with other sea users in the vicinity of the works. Guard vessel(s) will also be in regular communications with the OFLO and CFLO to exchange information on fishing activity and any static fishing gear in areas relevant to the Project, as appropriate.

4.2.4 Code of good practice for Project contracted vessels

4.2.4.1 Once Contractors are appointed, these will be contractually required to follow a code of good practice in order to ensure external communication is accurate and to aid coexistence with the fishing industry. This will include the following considerations:

- adherence to Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) requirements;
- maintain polite, proactive and professional communications with fishing vessels during offshore operations;
- monitor at all times the required very high frequency channels so as to receive communications directly from fishing vessels;
- undertake appropriate risk assessments in respect of potential interactions with commercial fishing vessels and their gears;
- have on board fisheries liaison / interaction guidance documents; and

- where appropriate, suitably qualified and certified OFLOs will be on board the Project vessels.

4.2.5 Fishing gear fastening protocols

4.2.5.1 A key reference for information on emergency procedures in relation to fishing gear held fast on the seabed is KIS-ORCA. The procedure outlined in this Section replicates that which has been in place in respect of the UK offshore oil and gas industry and describes the steps that should be undertaken in the event of fishing gear becoming fastened within the development.

- If a fishing vessel suspects they are fast to a cable/structure, fishermen should not endanger fishing vessel and crew by attempting to recover gear.
- The fishing vessel should advise the Coastguard, giving an accurate position of the vessel and / or lost gear.
- If the Coastguard confirms that the vessel is in the immediate vicinity of a cable or wind farm related infrastructure, serious consideration will be given to the slipping of the gear and buoying and recording its position.
- After buoying off the gear, the position should be confirmed with the Coastguard or the CFLO.
- On return to port, contact the local Fishery Office and register the incident in the normal manner.
- Complete a gear loss record form and forward it to CFLO.
- Skippers should not grapple in an attempt to recover fishing gear lost or cut away in the vicinity of cables or any structures.

4.2.5.2 Further information on navigational safety measures and a summary of emergency responses and coordination arrangements for the construction and O&M stage of the Project will be included within the VMNSP.

5. Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

5.1 Background

5.1.1 Summary of potential impacts

5.1.1.1 **Volume 1, Chapter 14: Commercial Fisheries** assessed the likely significant effects of the construction, O&M and decommissioning of the Project on the existing commercial fisheries activities occurring within or near to the OAA and offshore export cable corridor.

5.1.1.2 The following impacts were considered for all Project stages (construction, O&M, and decommissioning) for all commercial fisheries receptors:

- reduction in access to, or exclusion from established fishing grounds within the OAA;
- reduction in access to, or exclusion from established fishing grounds within the offshore export cable corridor;
- displacement leading to gear conflict and increased fishing pressure on adjacent grounds;
- disturbance of commercially important fish and shellfish resources leading to displacement or disruption of fishing activity;
- increased vessel traffic associated with the Project within fishing grounds leading to interference with fishing activity;
- additional steaming to alternative fishing grounds for vessels that would otherwise fish within the Project; and
- increased snagging risk, which could result in loss or damage to fishing gear.

5.1.2 EIA Report conclusions

5.1.2.1 Across all Project stages, the loss of access to the OAA for the UK demersal otter trawl fleet was assessed as **Moderate Adverse** (**Significant**). While a package of additional mitigation measures was proposed, these measures were not considered to lower the residual significance, which remains **Moderate Adverse** (**Significant**) in EIA terms. The effect reflects the long-term exclusion of fishing from established and valuable whitefish and Nephrops grounds within areas of the OAA throughout the 12-year construction stage, 35-year operational life per phase of the Project and decommissioning stage. Construction within the OAA is expected to be delivered in phases, with a total construction period of 12 years.

5.1.2.2 No significant effects were predicted during construction or decommissioning in relation to the offshore export cable corridor, based on temporary restrictions which will be managed through embedded and additional mitigation measures. For demersal otter trawl, demersal seine, scallop dredge, and potting fleets, impacts associated with temporary loss of access to the export cable corridor during construction and decommissioning were assessed as **Moderate Adverse** (**Significant**) prior to mitigation, but are considered **Minor Adverse** (**Not Significant**) following implementation of the proposed additional mitigation measures. No significant effects are predicted at any project stage for the export cable corridor once mitigation is applied.

5.1.2.3 Risks of displacement resulting from loss of access to both the OAA and the export cable corridor were recognised in the EIA Report but considered mitigated following the additional mitigation that was proposed.

5.1.2.4 An approach of avoiding and reducing impacts to both the commercial fishing and offshore wind farm industries is considered to be the most sustainable approach to co-existence. The Applicant will aim to minimise the overall impacts of the Project through the implementation of mitigation and monitoring strategies.

5.1.2.5 The following sections outline the range of measures that the Applicant has identified, and committed to in order to facilitate successful coexistence and long-standing good relationships with fisheries stakeholders.

5.1.2.6 These measures were used to inform the EIA Report with regard to impacts on commercial fishing for the Project.

5.1.2.7 It should be noted that procedures to facilitate coexistence may evolve through ongoing discussion and consultation with fisheries stakeholders and as construction plans for the Project become better defined, and will be reflected in future updates to the FMMCP as appropriate.

5.2 Embedded environmental measures and additional mitigation

5.2.1 Embedded environmental measures

5.2.1.1 Several environmental measures have been built into the Project design to reduce potential impacts on fisheries and accounted for in the EIA Report of the Project These are listed in **Table 5.1**. These measures are provided in **Volume 3, Appendix 5.2**.

Table 5.1 Embedded commitments of relevance to commercial fisheries

ID	Environmental measure proposed	How the environmental measures will be secured
M-029	An **Outline Cable Plan** has been submitted within this Application (**Volume 4**), and includes details of the need, type, quantity and installation methods for cabling. A Final Cable Plan will be completed prior to construction commencing and submitted to MD-LOT for approval. The Final Cable Plan will include: a) the vessel types, location, duration and cable laying techniques for export and array cables; b) the finalised location of the export cable route; c) the results of monitoring or data collection work (including geophysical, geotechnical and benthic surveys); d) technical specification of the cables, including a desk based assessment of attenuation of electromagnetic field strengths and shielding; e) a Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA), to ascertain burial depths and where necessary alternative protection measures; f) methods to be used to mitigate the effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF);	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.

ID	Environmental measure proposed	How the environmental measures will be secured
	g) methodologies and timetable for post-construction and operational surveys (including inspection, over trawl, post-lay) for the cables through its operational life; h) measures to address and report to the Licensing Authority any exposure of cables or risk to users of the sea from cables; and g) methodologies for cable inspection with measures to address and report to Scottish Ministers, any exposure of array cables.	
M-030	Advance warning and accurate location details of construction, maintenance and decommissioning operations, associated Safety Zones and advisory passing distances will be given via Notices to Mariners and Kingfisher Bulletins.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-031	A **Safety Zone Statement** has been submitted with this Application. An application for and use of rolling Safety Zones of up to 500m during construction and O&M stages will be submitted to MD-LOT for approval. No permanent operational safety zone is proposed. The safety zone application will include the following: - pre-commissioning safety zones: 50m - construction stage: 500m safety zones around active construction works and evidenced by the presence of a construction vessel; - construction stage: 50m safety zones around partially or fully completed structure prior to the overall wind farm commissioning; and - O&M stage: 500m safety zone around the site of major maintenance works. No safety zones are currently proposed for the decommissioning stage, a separate application would be made prior to decommissioning where considered necessary. Where appropriate, guard vessels will also be used to ensure adherence with safety zones or advisory passing distances, as defined by risk assessment, to mitigate any impact that poses a risk to surface navigation during construction, maintenance and decommissioning stages. Such impacts may include partially installed structures or cables, extinguished navigation lights or other unmarked hazards.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-038	An **Outline Lighting and Marking Plan** has been submitted with this Application (**Volume 4**). The Final LMP will be completed prior to construction commencing and submitted to MD-LOT for approval. The LMP will confirm compliance with Northern Lighthouse Board requirements and in Line with International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) Recommendation G1162 (IALA, 2021) with regards to shipping, navigation and aviation marking and lighting during construction and O&M stage of the works.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-039	An **Outline Vessel Management and Navigational Safety Plan** has been submitted with this Application (**Volume 4**). The Final Vessel Management and Navigation Safety Plan will be completed prior to construction commencing and submitted to MD-LOT for approval. The Final Plan will:	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.

ID	Environmental measure proposed	How the environmental measures will be secured
	a) confirm the types and numbers of vessels that will be engaged on the Project; b) consider vessel coordination including indicative transit route planning; d) describe measures put in place by the Project related to navigational safety, including information on Safety Zones, charting construction buoyage, temporary lighting and marking; and e) provide a means of notification of Project activity to other sea users (e.g. via Notice to Mariners).	
M-048	A **Outline Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan** (FMMCP) has been submitted with this Application (**Volume 4**). The final FMMCP will be completed prior to construction commencing and submitted to MD-LOT for approval. The FMMCP will set out the means of ongoing fisheries liaison through the construction and O&M stages of the Project and detail any mitigation measures to be put in place to limit effects on commercial fisheries activity. This will include the following project policies: Fisheries Liaison Policy and Engagement Schedule, Conflict Avoidance Policy and Incident Response Policy.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-049	An **Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme** has been submitted with this Application (**Volume 4**). The Final PEMP will be completed prior to construction commencing and submitted to MD-LOT for approval. The Final PEMP will set out commitments to environmental monitoring in pre-, during and post-construction stages of the Project.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-050	Any objects dropped on the seabed during works associated with the Project will be reported and objects will be recovered where they pose a hazard to other marine users and where recovery is possible.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-051	Participation in fisheries working group(s) will occur to assist with liaison between the Project and the fishing community.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-052	Adherence to best practice guidance will occur with regards to fisheries liaison and procedures in the event of interactions between the Project and fishing activities (for example, FLOWW, 2014, 2015, 2025).	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-053	Appointment of a CFLO. The CFLO will support ongoing liaison and ensure clear communication between the Project and commercial fisheries during design, pre-construction, construction, O&M and decommissioning.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-054	A detailed CBRA will be undertaken to enable informed judgements about burial depth. This should reduce the risk of buried cables reemerging whilst also limiting the amount of sediment disturbance to that which is necessary. The array and export cables will typically be buried at a target burial depth between 1-2m below the seabed surface. The final depth of the cable will be dependent on the seabed mobility and CBRA. The CBRA will manage and mitigate risks from loading and sediment	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.

ID	Environmental measure proposed	How the environmental measures will be secured
	transport across the seabed. The CBRA will be included within the Final Cable Plan.	
M-106	The development of and adherence to a Decommissioning Programme. The Decommissioning Programme will outline measures for the decommissioning of the Project. The Decommissioning Programme would be submitted prior to construction commencing to MD-LOT and approved by Scottish Ministers prior to construction.	Required under Sections 105 (Energy Act 2004) and marine licences consent conditions.
M-120	A **Volume 4, Outline Construction Method Statement** has been submitted with this Application. The Final CMS will be completed prior to construction commencing and submitted to MD-LOT for approval. The Final CMS will include: a) details of the commence dates, duration and phasing of key elements of construction, working areas, the construction procedures and good working practices; b) details of the roles and responsibilities; and c) details of how the construction related mitigation step proposed are to be delivered.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.
M-122	Development of and adherence to an Offshore Operations and Maintenance Plan, which will confirm the Project's operations and maintenance activities. This will be submitted to MD-LOT for approval post-consent.	s.36 conditions and marine licences conditions.

5.2.2 Additional mitigation

5.2.2.1 In addition to embedded environmental measures, a package of additional commitments has been developed where more significant risks have been identified.

Fisheries fund (M-219)

5.2.2.2 A Fisheries Fund shall be established for the array area (within the OAA) once determined, operating during the construction stage and extending through the first five years of operation. The Fund shall be directed towards fisheries where moderate adverse effects are identified within the EIA Report.

5.2.2.3 The Fisheries Fund shall not provide direct compensation to individual businesses. Instead, it shall support the fishing sector more broadly by funding research and initiatives that promote co-existence, adaptation, and resilience. Priority areas of support shall include:

- Research and enhancement of target fish and shellfish stocks to strengthen ecological resilience and sustainability for example, Nephrops, monkfish and haddock.
- Co-designed initiatives such as gear innovation, diversification, operational adaptation, and business resilience.
- Collaborative, evidence-based investment to improve the long-term viability of fisheries.

5.2.2.4 Commitment is made to consult with the fishing industry and the scientific community to define administrative arrangements, identify research priorities, and ensure transparent governance.

Access corridors (M-220)

5.2.2.5 No above-seabed infrastructure, including WTG floating units, moorings, anchors, or dynamic cables, shall be located across the existing Golden Eagle to Claymore Oil Export pipeline situated in the centre of the OAA, nor within a 500 m buffer either side of the pipeline. This commitment establishes an access corridor equating to approximately 29km², representing 4% of the OAA.

5.2.2.6 Array cables and pipeline crossings may occur within this access corridor; however, no other permanent above-seabed infrastructure shall be installed. The purpose of the access corridor is to provide opportunity for demersal trawl fishing activity and to maintain passage for transiting fishing vessels.

Exploration of coexistence within the OAA (M-221)

5.2.2.7 An assessment shall be undertaken to investigate opportunities for coexistence with fishing activity within the OAA. The assessment shall consider indicative infrastructure layouts and will provide an evaluation of the practicality of different fishing methods and give consideration to feasible gear adaptations.

5.2.2.8 The SFF shall be consulted during the DSLP process, which shall set out the detailed design and layout of the offshore development. As part of this process, the Developer will seek input from the SFF to inform consideration of whether areas compatible with floating wind infrastructure could potentially support fishing activity, taking account of gear types, spatial patterns, and operational constraints.

Fisheries monitoring and related updates to FMMCP (M-222)

5.2.2.9 A fisheries monitoring programme shall be implemented to understand variations in commercial fisheries activity in response to construction of the project and to inform updates to the FMMCP. The programme shall comprise the collation and analysis of commercial fisheries landings and activity data (including landings statistics, vessel monitoring system (VMS) datasets, and other available sources), together with consultation with the fishing industry. Monitoring shall extend across pre-construction, construction, and post-construction stages, with annual reporting.

5.2.2.10 The programme shall assess trends in fishing activity, landings by port and species, and fishing vessel presence, and shall review guard vessel and Marine Coordination Centre records where available. Monitoring outputs shall be used to validate assessment assumptions, identify emerging issues, and inform any necessary updates to the FMMCP. Where monitoring demonstrates the need for additional action, further mitigation shall be developed and implemented in consultation with regulators and stakeholders.

Disruption agreements (M-218)

5.2.2.11 Disruption agreements shall be entered into in relation to the offshore export cable corridor, where significant impacts remain after minimisation and mitigation measures have been applied for any construction or pre-construction stage temporary disruption to fishers. Evidence-based commercial disturbance agreements with fishers shall only be implemented where residual impacts persist despite all reasonable mitigation.

5.2.2.12 Disruption agreements shall include both protocols for how the parties will act during the construction period and, where supported by an appropriate evidence base, payments designed to ensure that affected fishers are neither worse nor better off as a result of development activities.

5.2.2.13 Agreements shall be established with those targeting fisheries upon which the offshore export cable corridor has been identified, within the EIA Report, to have a significant impact during the construction stage. This requirement applies where significant impacts are identified for either static or mobile fishing fleets.

5.2.2.14 The following documentation and data is expected to be required to form an evidence base to support any claim for disruption agreements:

- Certificate of registry for the vessel.
- Valid Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) Fishing Vessel Certificate, or equivalent.
- Fishing licences and entitlements.
- Permits associated with byelaws, e.g., Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA) shellfish permits.
- Spatial information showing the vessel's historic fishing activity – VMS, inshore VMS (iVMS) and Automatic Information System (AIS) are preferred sources as they are considered the most robust data sources. Where these are not available, Global Positioning System (GPS) plotter records may support the case for historic activity, and may include physical examination of a vessel's plotter.
- Financial accounts for the past three years, specific to the fishing aspects of their business(es).
- Evidence, or examples of, sales notes where available for an agreed time period, and linked to the area under consideration.
- Fishing vessel activity and / or fisheries landings data held by fisheries authorities (Note: due to General Data Protection Regulation, a declaration is needed for individual vessel records to be released).

5.3 Commercial fisheries monitoring

5.3.1.1 The undertaking of a fisheries monitoring programme has been proposed to understand variations in commercial fisheries activity in response to construction of the Project and to inform updates to the FMMCP. Further details on the proposed commercial fisheries monitoring programme can be found in **paragraphs 5.2.2.9** and **5.2.2.10**, and in **Volume 4: Outline Project Environmental Monitoring Programme**.

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7. Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

7.1 Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
CBRA	Cable Burial Risk Assessment
CFLO	Company Fisheries Liaison Officer
CMS	Construction Method Statement
COLREGS	Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea
COWRIE	Collaborative Offshore Wind Research into the Environment
DSLP	Development, Specification and Layout Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Electromagnetic Fields
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
FIR	Fishing Industry Representative
FLOWW	Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group
FMMCP	Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan
GW	Gigawatts
IALA	International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities
km	kilometre
LMP	Lighting and Marking Plan
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Acronym	Definition
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
NE7	Northeast 7
NTMs	Notices to Mariners
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OAA	Option Agreement Area
OFLO	Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer
OLA	Option to Lease Agreement
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation
PEMP	Project Environmental Monitoring Programme
s.36	Section 36
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
SOLAS	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea
SPR	ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited
SWFPA	Scottish Whitefish Producers Association
VMNSP	Vessel Management and Navigational Safety Plan
VMS	Vessel Monitoring System
WNoO	Weekly Notice of Operations
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

7.2 Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Beam trawl	A method of bottom trawling with a net that is held open by a beam, which is generally a heavy steel tube supported by steel trawl heads at each end. Tickler chains or chain mats, attached between the beam and the ground rope of the net, are used to disturb fish and crustaceans that rise up and fall back into the attached net.
Bycatch	Catch which is retained and sold but is not the target species for the fishery.
Commercial fishing	Any form of fishing activity legally undertaken where the catch is sold for taxable profit.
Demersal Finfish species	Finfish species which live and feed on or near the seabed.
Demersal seine	A seine net is a long net, with or without a bag in the centre, which is set either from the shore or from a boat for surrounding a certain area and is operated with 2 (long) ropes fixed to its ends (for hauling and herding the fish).
Demersal trawl	A demersal trawl is a cone shaped net that is towed on the seabed to target demersal fish species.
Dhan	A marker flag made of very hard-wearing material located on a pole or buoy to mark location of fishing gear.
Disruption agreement	A formal agreement between the Applicant and a fishery that seeks to reduce disturbance or displacement to a fishery caused by the Project. Agreements may be supported by monetary payment for demonstrable loss of fishery access or economic disadvantage caused directly to active fishing vessels by disturbance or displacement by the Project.
Fish stock	Any natural population of fish which an isolated and self-perpetuating group of the same species.
Fishery	A group of vessel voyages which target the same species or use the same gear.
Fishing ground	An area of water or seabed targeted by fishing activity.
Fisheries fund	A fund established by the Applicant which is to be used to support a fishery in adapting to the presence of the Project, and / or for the general betterment of the members of an impacted fisheries community.
Fishing mortality	Mortality due to fishing; death or removal of fish from a population due to fishing.
Fleet	A physical group of vessels sharing similar characteristics (for example, nationality).
Functional unit	A Nephrops functional unit is a geographic area used for managing and reporting on Nephrops populations.

Term	Definition
Gear type	The method / equipment used for fishing.
iFISH Database	The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) fisheries database of commercial fisheries landings statistics for vessels registered in the UK.
International Council for the Exploration of the Seas Statistical Rectangles	ICES standardise the division of sea areas to enable statistical analysis of data. Each ICES statistical rectangle is '30 min latitude by 1 degree longitude' in size (approximately 30 x 30 nm). A number of rectangles are amalgamated to create ICES statistical areas.
Landings	Quantitative description of the amount of fish returned to port for sale, in terms of value or weight.
Marine Directorate-Licensing Operations Teams	Formerly known as Marine Scotland- Licensing operations Team, MD-LOT is the regulator for determining marine licence applications on behalf of the Scottish Ministers in the Scotland inshore region (between 0 and 12 nautical miles) under the marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and in the Scottish offshore region (between 12 and 200 nautical miles) under Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
Marine licence	Licence required for certain activities in the marine environment and granted under either the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 or the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.
Maximum Sustainable Yield	Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) is the largest yield (catch, in tonnes) that can be taken from a specific fish stock over an indefinite period under constant environmental conditions. Fishing at MSY levels should ensure the capacity of the stock to continue to produce this level in the long term.
Métier	A homogenous subdivision, either of a fishery by vessel type or a fleet by voyage type.
Minimum Conservation Reference Size	For the protection and conservation of fisheries resources, MCRS are applied to certain species of fish and shellfish. The MCRS is the size of a living marine aquatic species below which restrictions or incentives apply that aim to avoid capture through fishing activity.
Minimum Landing Size	A technical measure that limits the size of fish or shellfish species that can be legally landed and sold. The MLS varies per species. With the implementation of the Landings Obligation, the existing MLS are changed into MCRS, but they will remain largely the same.
Otter Trawl	A net with large rectangular boards (otter boards) which are used to keep the mouth of the trawl net open. Otter boards are made of timber or steel and are positioned in such a way that the hydrodynamic forces, acting on them when the net is towed along the seabed, pushes them outwards and prevents the mouth of the net from closing.
Pelagic Finfish Species	Finfish species which live within the water column, not on or near the seabed or at the coasts.
Pelagic Trawl	A cone shaped net used to target fish species in the mid-water column.
Potting	Pots (which may be referred to as creels) are generally rigid structures into which fish or shellfish are guided or enticed through funnels that make entry

Term	Definition
	easy but from which escape is difficult. There are many different styles and designs, each one has been designed to suit the behaviour of its target species.
Quota	A proportion of the Total Allowable Catch for a fish stock.
Recruitment	Recruitment can be defined as the number of fish surviving to enter the fishery or to some life history stage such as settlement or maturity.
Scallop Dredge	A method to catch scallop using steel dredges with a leading bar fitted with a set of spring-loaded, downward pointing teeth. The teeth on the bar at the front of the dredge are approximately 120 mm in length, but typically only the front 20 mm penetrate the seabed to dislodge scallops from the sand. Behind this toothed bar (sword), a mat of steel rings is fitted. A heavy net cover (back) is laced to the frame, sides and to the after end of the mat to form a bag.
Scottish Seine	An encircling net shot in the open sea using very long ropes to lay out the net, and ropes on the seabed prior to towing the net closed and hauling from a boat under its own power.
Shellfish Species	Aquatic invertebrates with a hard outer covering, either a shell or a shell-like exoskeleton, that are commonly eaten as food.
Spawning	The act of releasing or depositing eggs (fish).
Spawning Stock Biomass	The combined weight (in tonnes) of all the fish of one specific stock that are old enough to spawn. It provides an indication of the status of the stock and the reproductive capacity of the stock.
Static Cables	Cables designed to be connected to fixed installations. These are not intended to flex.
Stock Assessment	An assessment of the biological stock of a species and its status in relation to defined references points for biomass and fishing mortality.
String	A series of static fishing gear (pots) joined together to form a single deployable linear line of pots.
Swept Area Ratio	Swept Area Ratio (derived from Vessel Monitoring System data) indicates the number of times per annum that a fishing gear makes contact with (or sweeps) the seabed surface. Surface Swept Area Ratio provides a proxy for fishing intensity.
Total Allowable Catch	TACs are catch limits, expressed in tonnes or numbers, that are set for some commercial fish stocks.
Vessel Monitoring System	A system used in commercial fishing to allow environmental and fisheries regulatory organisations to monitor, minimally, the position, time at a position, and course and speed of fishing vessels.
Vivier	Vivier crabbers are generally larger vessels with the ability to retain large numbers of live crab onboard in storage tanks.

MarramWind