

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
[Redacted]
Sent: 23 February 2018 09:58
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC_Timing of Offshore Export Cables Installation
Attachments: ABE-VF-MS-0010_Timing of cable installation - Atlantic salmon.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear [Redacted]

As discussed there is potential for the cable installation works at the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre to extend beyond the end of February 2018.

Whilst no specific mitigation was required either in the ES or in the Project consents, in relation to the timing of the construction works, during the consultation process for the Cable Laying Strategy AOWFL stated that the cabling works, as set out in the CLS, were anticipated to commence in July (with works at the landfall) with the offshore export cable installation anticipated to be started in October and completed by January; as a result, these works were planned (subject to further engineering refinement) to be undertaken entirely outwith the smolt migration period and predominantly (in term of the main cable installation works) outwith the main period for adult migration. Should the installation of the offshore export cables subsequently be delayed, such that some or all of the works need to be completed outwith the currently anticipated period (August-January) and in a period of particular sensitivity for adult smolt or adult migration (February onwards), MS-LOT would be informed prior to any such works being undertaken.

To this effect attached you can find a briefing note in relation to the timing of the cable installation and potential for impacts on Atlantic salmon. We are proposing to update the Construction Method Statement to reflect the current changes in the indicative programme included in this plan.

Please let me know if you have any queries or require any further information.

Regards,
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm

3rd Floor, The Tun Building
4 Jackson's Entry
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8PJ

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Ltd
3rd Floor, The Tun Building
4 Jackson's Entry
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh EH8 8PJ

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team
Scottish Government
Marine Laboratory
375 Victoria Road
Aberdeen
AB11 9DB

23/02/2018

AOWFL Ref: ABE-VF-MS-0010

Dear [Redacted]

Ref: Export Cable Installation at the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) – Timing of Works

It has been noted that there is potential for the cable installation works at the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) to extend beyond the end of February 2018. Please find attached a briefing note in relation to the timing of the cable installation and potential for impacts on Atlantic salmon.

AOWFL trust that this note is clear, however should you have any comments or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm.

Assessment of potential impacts on salmon of extending cable laying operations beyond the end of February.

Atlantic salmon spend the initial part of their life in freshwater. After 2-3 years (The Tweed Foundation, 2016¹) juvenile salmon or 'smolts' migrate downstream during mid-April to late May (Malcolm *et al.*, 2015²) from rivers out to sea where they grow to maturity. Adult salmon then return to their natal rivers to spawn. In Scottish rivers spawning occurs from November to January with the majority of individuals dying after spawning.

Adult salmon return to the Rivers Dee (and Don) throughout the year but with the majority of fish recorded, in recent years, returning in the spring (February-May) and summer (June-September). This is evidenced by rod catch records from the River Dee (average 2007 to 2016) with a peak in salmon catches in September and May. Grilse (one sea winter salmon) numbers peak in August. Salmon generally spawn from October to December in the River Dee (Pers comms, Dee District Salmon Fishery Board 2017).

Both the spawning times and peak numbers give an indication of the times when salmon numbers are at their greatest within a freshwater environment. Salmon are caught by rod and line from February to October in the River Dee. This would therefore indicate that salmon are also migrating through the coastal marine zone during these months to reach their natal rivers in time for spawning. Adult salmon may therefore be present in the coastal waters of Aberdeen Bay in varying numbers throughout the year.

Malcolm *et al.*, (2015) analysed existing data on smolt emigration times across Scotland, concluding that mid-April to late-May was the most important time for smolt migration from rivers to the sea, and there was a gradual decline (1.5 days per decade) in early migration. This is confirmed by a River Dee specific smolt study (2016³) which found that the main smolt migration through Aberdeen harbour was between the 2nd and 10th of May.

Due to the later migration of smolts (as evidenced by Malcolm *et al.*, 2015 and the river Dee smolt study), the likelihood of interaction with the wind farm during cable laying is considered to be low. It is therefore considered that an extension of the working window beyond February will not have a significant effect on smolts.

Cable laying techniques produce substantially less underwater noise than other construction activities such as piling. Underwater noise modelling undertaken for cable laying operations at the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm (Nedwell *et al.* 2012⁴) demonstrated an impact range of less than 1 m for salmon at 90dB_{HL}. Due to this small potential impact zone and that the salmon is classed as a hearing generalist (the swim bladder paying no part in their hearing) it is considered any impact from underwater noise will not be significant should cable laying operations continue beyond February.

Cable laying operations have the potential to release a degree suspended sediment. As adult salmon are likely to be present in the vicinity of the EOWDC in varying numbers throughout the year, there may be possible interaction and therefore pathway to impact. Robertson *et al* (2007⁵) demonstrated that the greatest impact to migratory fish from suspended sediment was on incubating eggs and larval stages. This is in part due to their lack of mobility and inability to move away from the impact. Adult salmon on the other hand exhibit strong swimming responses and are able to swim through or navigate around an impacted area. It is therefore considered that any impact to salmon from suspended sediment beyond February will not be significant.

¹ The Tweed Foundation (2016). The Life of a Salmon. Available from: http://www.tweedfoundation.org.uk/The_Life_of_a_Salmon.pdf [Accessed: 16/01/2018]

² Malcolm, IA, Millar CP and Millidine KJ (2015) Spatio-temporal variability in Scottish smolt emigration times and sizes. Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science. Volume 6 Number 2.

³ Taken from: <http://www.riverdee.org.uk/news/2017/smolt-trapping-success-for-a-second-year>

⁴ Nedwell, J.R., Brooker, A. G., and Barham, R. J. (2012) Assessment of underwater noise during the installation of export power cables at the Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm. Subacoustec.

⁵ Robertson, M. J., Scruton, D. A and Clarke, K. D. (2007) Seasonal effects of suspended sediment on the behaviour of juvenile Atlantic salmon. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. 136. 822-828. 10.1577/T06-164.1.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 February 2018 10:44
To: [Redacted] MARINEENERGY; [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC - EPS Variation - Geophysical Survey - SNH Response - Acknowledgement of receipt

Hi [Redacted]

Many thanks for responding so quickly. MS-LOT acknowledge receipt and will proceed with varying the existing EPS licence.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 23 February 2018 15:31
To: [Redacted] MARINEENERGY; [Redacted] ; [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: EOWDC - EPS Variation - Geophysical Survey - Query regarding consultation requirements

Hi [Redacted]

Thanks for this information, we are content that what is described is ok and we will not require further information for the variation to the EPS licence.

Thanks [Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Redacted] | **Marine Energy**
Scottish Natural Heritage | Battleby | Redgorton | Perth | PH1 3EW | t: [Redacted]
marineenergy@snh.gov.uk
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba | Battleby | Ràth a Ghoirtein | Peairt | PH1 3EW
nature.scot – Connecting People and Nature in Scotland – [@nature_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 22 February 2018 11:35
To: MARINEENERGY; [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC - EPS Variation - Geophysical Survey - Query regarding consultation requirements

Dear [Redacted]

EOWDC have encountered some technical difficulties during the OEC works and are now requesting permission to undertake some further surveys and studies to examine the ground conditions prior to re-commencement of cable laying activities. They are hoping to undertake survey activities within the next 1-2 weeks. They are also hoping to undertake geotechnical surveys (likely to be exempt from licensing requirements).

They have provided the following information in relation to proposed Geophysical Surveys:-

"Geophysical survey:

Geophysical survey work may also be undertaken, using an Edgetech 3200 sub-bottom profiler (SBP). The equipment will operate at 400-500 Hz, and therefore will be audible to all groups of marine mammals. It is therefore proposed that the geophysical works are carried out under the existing EPS licence for the construction phase (MS EPS 25/2017/01). AOWFL considers that mitigation is not required for the SBP alone as there is no potential for auditory injury (only disturbance, as is permitted under the licence). However, if USBL equipment is proposed to be used in conjunction with the SBP, there will of course be a pre-work search prior to the use of the USBL. The USBL will then remain on throughout the works, thus effectively deterring marine mammals from the area.

Should any changes be required to the Marine Noise Registry Form, a new proposed activity form will be submitted no later than seven days prior to commencement of the licenced activity (as per Condition 3 of the Licence). The corresponding NtM will also be issued.

Just to clarify that the range that the different equipment will operate is from 400/500Hz – 24kHz.”

The SBP profiler is not included within their current Construction EPS licence (MS EPS 25/2017/01) nor was it assessed within the accompanying method statement/application (attached for reference) although the USBL is referenced within the accompanying Risk Assessment report (see 2.3.4 – Cable installation, Export Cable, pg. 12).

Our proposal would be to consult with SNH and issue a varied EPS licence to include the equipment detailed above, however, I would be grateful if you could please confirm whether you would require any additional information when considering the variation consultation? If so, please let me know what you would require and I will ensure it is provided by EOWDC. Additionally if you have any queries at this stage please do forward them to me.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

marinescotland

Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team

Scottish Government

Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB

[Redacted]

[Redacted] / MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine>

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 February 2018 11:44
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC - Geotechnical Survey - Notice of Intention - Map required

Dear [Redacted]

As requested in the Notice of Intention to carry out an exempted activity, I would be grateful if you could please provide a map detailing the location of the proposed activities.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 23 February 2018 13:07
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Request for NOE to be submitted ASAP

Dear [Redacted]

Attached you can find the completed notice.

Let me know if you have any queries or require any further information.

Regards,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 11:23 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Request for NOE to be submitted ASAP

Hi [Redacted]

Geotechnical Survey

Can you please complete and return the "Notice of Exempted Activity" as soon as possible to give MS-LOT sufficient time to review? Once we have seen the NOI we will be able to confirm whether the works are exempt or not.

Geophysical Survey

We will come back to you regarding the EPS issue as soon as possible.

Best

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 22 February 2018 10:52
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Acknowledgement of receipt

Thanks [Redacted]

Just to clarify that the range that the different equipment will operate is from 400/500Hz – 24kHz.

Regards,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 10:11 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Acknowledgement of receipt

Dear [Redacted]

Many thanks for submitting this information to MS-LOT. We will review and respond in due course.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 21 February 2018 23:14
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route

Dear [Redacted]

As discussed on the call earlier today, AOWFL is proposing to carry out geotechnical and geophysical survey work on the EOWDC cable route and details are provided below.

Geotechnical Survey:

Sediment samples will be taken using a vibrocore and Grab (Van Veen) methodologies, and cone penetration tests (CPT). No sediment will be removed during the CPTS. Based on MS-LOT guidance "Sediment Sampling and Scientific Instrument Deployment" (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/guidance>) and the proposed methodology, we believe these works are exempt from Marine Licencing, as the following applies:

- the volume of sediment removed is less than 1 cubic metre (per 'grab');
- it is not likely to cause a danger or obstruction to navigation;
- it is a plan or project not likely (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) to have a significant effect on a European site; a Ramsar site; the protected features of an Marine Protected Area (MPA); or any process on which the conservation of any protected feature of a MPA is dependent.

We will therefore complete the Notice of Exempted Activity form (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/Applications/exemptedactivity>), and submit to MS-LOT in advance of the works. In addition to the corresponding notifications including the NtMs.

Geophysical survey:

Geophysical survey work may also be undertaken, using an Edgetech 3200 sub-bottom profiler (SBP). The equipment will operate at 400-500 Hz, and therefore will be audible to all groups of marine mammals. It is therefore proposed that the geophysical works are carried out under the existing EPS licence for the construction phase (MS EPS 25/2017/01). AOWFL considers that mitigation is not required for the SBP alone as there is no potential for auditory injury (only disturbance, as is permitted under the licence). However, if USBL equipment is proposed to be used in conjunction with the SBP, there will of course be a pre-work search prior to the use of the USBL. The USBL will then remain on throughout the works, thus effectively deterring marine mammals from the area.

Should any changes be required to the Marine Noise Registry Form, a new proposed activity form will be submitted no later than seven days prior to commencement of the licenced activity (as per Condition 3 of the Licence). The corresponding NtM will also be issued.

Please let me know if you agree with the approach describe above or require any further information at this stage on the proposed surveys.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm

3rd Floor, The Tun Building
4 Jackson's Entry
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8PJ

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

We have recently changed the registered offices of a number of our companies. The following are now registered at 1 Tudor Street, London, EC4Y 0AH:
Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd, Border Wind Ltd, Border Wind Farms Ltd, BW Ops Ltd, Clashindarroch Wind Farm Ltd, Eclipse Energy UK Ltd,
Eclipse Energy Company Ltd, Kentish Flats Ltd, Ormonde Energy Ltd, Ormonde Energy Holdings Ltd, Ormonde Project Company Ltd, Thanet Offshore

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
[Redacted]
Sent: 26 February 2018 12:55
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: EOWDC - Geotechnical Survey - Notice of Intention - Map required
Attachments: Geotech Survey Proposed Locations.pdf

Hi [Redacted]

Please find attached a map detailing the location of the proposed activities.

Let me know if you require any further information.

Regards,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 11:44 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC - Geotechnical Survey - Notice of Intention - Map required

Dear [Redacted]

As requested in the Notice of Intention to carry out an exempted activity, I would be grateful if you could please provide a map detailing the location of the proposed activities.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 23 February 2018 13:07
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Request for NOE to be submitted ASAP

Dear [Redacted]

Attached you can find the completed notice.

Let me know if you have any queries or require any further information.

Regards,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 11:23 AM
To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Request for NOE to be submitted ASAP

Hi [Redacted]

Geotechnical Survey

Can you please complete and return the "Notice of Exempted Activity" as soon as possible to give MS-LOT sufficient time to review? Once we have seen the NOI we will be able to confirm whether the works are exempt or not.

Geophysical Survey

We will come back to you regarding the EPS issue as soon as possible.

Best

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 22 February 2018 10:52

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: RE: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Acknowledgement of receipt

Thanks [Redacted]

Just to clarify that the range that the different equipment will operate is from 400/500Hz – 24kHz.

Regards,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 10:11 AM

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Acknowledgement of receipt

Dear [Redacted]

Many thanks for submitting this information to MS-LOT. We will review and respond in due course.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 21 February 2018 23:14

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route

Dear [Redacted]

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- the volume of sediment removed is less than 1 cubic metre (per 'grab');
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We will therefore complete the Notice of Exempted Activity form (<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/Applications/exemptedactivity>), and submit to MS-LOT in advance of the works. In addition to the corresponding notifications including the NtMs.

Geophysical survey:

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Should any changes be required to the Marine Noise Registry Form, a new proposed activity form will be submitted no later than seven days prior to commencement of the licenced activity (as per Condition 3 of the Licence). The corresponding NtM will also be issued.

Please let me know if you agree with the approach describe above or require any further information at this stage on the proposed surveys.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm

3rd Floor, The Tun Building
4 Jackson's Entry
Holyrood Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8PJ

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

We have recently changed the registered offices of a number of our companies. The following are now registered at 1 Tudor Street, London, EC4Y 0AH:

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 February 2018 10:45
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC - Geotechnical Survey - Notice of Intention to Carry Out Exempted Activity - Acknowledgement of receipt

Hi [Redacted]

Many thanks for submitting the completed notice. MS-LOT acknowledge receipt and will respond in due course.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 23 February 2018 13:07
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Request for NOE to be submitted ASAP

Dear [Redacted]

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Let me know if you have any queries or require any further information.

Regards,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 11:23 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Request for NOE to be submitted ASAP

Hi [Redacted]

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Geophysical Survey

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Best

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 22 February 2018 10:52
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Acknowledgement of receipt

Thanks [Redacted]

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Regards,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 10:11 AM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: EOWDC - Proposed Geotechnical and Geophysical Survey_Offshore Export Cable Route - Acknowledgement of receipt

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[Redacted]

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Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm

3rd Floor, The Tun Building
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Holyrood Road
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EH8 8PJ

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

We have recently changed the registered offices of a number of our companies. The following are now registered at 1 Tudor Street, London, EC4Y 0AH:
Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd, Border Wind Ltd, Border Wind Farms Ltd, BW Ops Ltd, Clashindarroch Wind Farm Ltd, Eclipse Energy UK Ltd,
Eclipse Energy Company Ltd, Kentish Flats Ltd, Ormonde Energy Ltd, Ormonde Energy Holdings Ltd, Ormonde Project Company Ltd, Thanet Offshore

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 February 2018 11:57
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Marine Licence 04309/18/0: Contractors, Subcontractors, Vessels, Agents - Update

Marine Licence Marine Licence 04309/18/0: Condition 3.1.2 – Contractors, Subcontractors, Vessels, Agents - Update

Dear [Redacted]

Please find below the details of additional vessels at the EOWDC.

Kind regards,
Amy

Master's name	[Redacted]
Vessel name	MV Doer
Vessel type	CTV
Vessel IMO number	9815018
Vessel owner / operating company	Northern Offshore Services A/S
Function	Pax transfer

Master's name	[Redacted]
Vessel name	MV Dispatcher
Vessel type	CTV
Vessel IMO number	9778753
Vessel owner / operating company	Northern Offshore Services A/S
Function	Pax transfer

Master's name	TBC
Vessel name	Ndeavor
Vessel type	Cable Laying Vessel
Vessel IMO number	9650212
Vessel owner / operating company	Boskalis
Function	Cable Laying Vessel (infield cables)

Master's name	TBC
Vessel name	Manu Pekka
Vessel type	Backhoe Dredger (no propulsion)
Vessel IMO number	MMSI: 212701000
Vessel owner / operating company	Boskalis
Function	Dredging trench

[Redacted]
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naturalpower.com
renewable energy consultants

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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