

To Whom It May Concern,

Below is Dungarvan Shellfish Ltd submission for "The South Coast Designated Marine Area Plan", (DMAP), we are in general supportive of the wind turbines offshore to provide sustainable energy. But our concerns in relations to aquaculture industry especially on the oyster industry in Dungarvan Bay in relation to the construction of this energy development needs to be taken into consideration.

Exclusion of Aquaculture Areas: Identify and exclude areas within a 20 km plus radius that are currently designated for aquaculture activities. Ensure that these areas are protected to prevent contamination and disturbances that could harm aquaculture operations and the surrounding marine environment.

Exclusion of Near Shore Wind Turbines: Evaluate the history of heavy metals in the area to determine if it poses a threat when disturb to the biodiversity and aquaculture industry in the vicinity. Assess the potential effects of sediment disturbance and vibrancy on aquaculture life and seabed biodiversity. Also, the impact of laying underwater cables within the 10Km plus radius of the oyster industry would cause significant damage to the industry regarding sediment disturbance and the vibration of the area can cause serious damage to the oysters.

Consideration of Blue Flag Beaches and Tourism Areas: Identify and protect blue flag beaches and other tourism hotspots. Minimize ground disturbance during cable laying and substation construction in these areas to prevent sediment disturbance and maintain the quality of these tourist destinations.

Protection of Special Protected Areas: Identify Special Protected Areas and establish a radius outside of these areas where development is restricted or carefully managed to minimize impact on sensitive ecosystems.

Protection of Native Bird Populations: Implement measures to protect native bird populations, which may include habitat preservation, limiting disturbance during nesting seasons, and monitoring bird populations to ensure their conservation.

Decommissioning Planning: Include a comprehensive decommissioning plan that outlines how infrastructure will be removed or repurposed at the end of its operational life to minimize environmental impact.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Conduct a thorough environmental impact assessment (EIA) that considers all the above factors. The EIA should be used to inform the development plan and ensure that it meets regulatory and environmental standards.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with local communities, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders throughout the planning and development process to gather input, address concerns, and ensure transparency. To have a liaison officer that communicates and discuss in person with the industry.

Regulatory Compliance: Ensure that all plans and activities comply with relevant environmental laws and regulations to prevent negative impacts on the marine ecosystem.

Monitoring and Adaptation: Establish a monitoring program to track the environmental impacts of the project over time. Be prepared to adapt the project as needed to minimize negative effects and maximize benefits.

In conclusion, the development going forward needs to exclude the oyster industry area and surrounds as we are licenced by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and as an establishment industry in the area we need to be taking into consideration on all further developments and if this was to occur and our concerns be seriously heard then both industries can exist going forward.

Many thanks,

