

Strategic Environmental Assessment Team
DAERA – NIEA
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FAO SC-DMAP Statutory Consultation,
International and Offshore Energy Division.
29-31 Adelaide Road,
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Email: SEATeam@daera-ni.gov.uk

13/06/2024

Re: Draft South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy SEA and AA

The consultation body comprising of The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) and (supported with a service level agreement) DfC Historic Environment Division (HED), has considered the consultation and associated documents and our opinions are set out below.

General SEA Comments

DAERA SEA Team is content that the environmental report and the process of consultation follow the SEA Directive. A description of the current state of the environment and how this relates to the proposed Framework is included within the environmental report. Appropriate environmental objectives / targets / indicators for each of the likely environmental receptors is addressed including consideration of alternatives, an assessment of significant impact and complemented with mitigation measures and monitoring programme.

Marine and Fisheries Division Comments

DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division welcomes the opportunity to comment on this consultation. The location of this proposal lies on the southern coast of Ireland, more than 200km from the nearest Northern Ireland Marine Protected Area (SAC/SPA/MCZ). As this is outside the 100km screening distance requirements we recommend for NI SACs with marine

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mammals as a site selection feature, we are content that these do not need to be screened into any assessment to determine impacts.

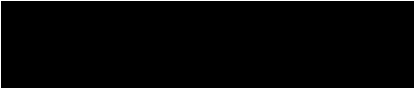

Natural Environment Division (NED) Comments

NIEA Natural Environment Division works to ensure that Northern Ireland's natural environment, including its flora and fauna and landscapes, is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of this and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

NED are generally content with the overall approach of the SEA and the issues that have been addressed. We welcome that the SEA has identified and listed designated sites within the UK with potential for connectivity with the objectives of the SC-DMAP.

Please contact the SEA Team at seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk should you have any queries or require clarification.

Yours faithfully,



Senior Scientific Officer
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Northern Ireland Environment Agency
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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

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