

Strategic Environmental Assessment Team  
DAERA – NIEA  
Clare House  
303 Airport Road West  
Belfast  
BT3 9ED

Email: [SEATeam@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:SEATeam@daera-ni.gov.uk)

International and Offshore Energy Division,  
South Coast DMAP Submission,  
Department of the Environment, Climate and  
Communications,  
Tom Johnson House,  
Haddington Road,  
Dublin D04 K7X4  
Ireland.

28/08/2024

## Re: Draft South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy Workbook 1-Draft Environmental Data Log (“the Data Log”).

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 welcomes the opportunity to comment on the document entitled “Workbook 1-Draft Environmental Data Log” (“the Data Log”). We would highlight that in addition to any new comments provided in this response our previous response dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 still stands.

### Marine and Fisheries Division Comments

DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division welcomes the opportunity to comment on this consultation. The boundary of the project area lies just under 200km from NI waters, and ~230km to the North Channel SAC (designated for Harbour Porpoise). This is outside the screening ranges used for Harbour Porpoise – all SACs within 100km of the project should be screened in- therefore we are unlikely to have any concerns.

We would highlight, however, in the Draft South Coast Designated Maritime Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy document they refer to ‘ *the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Wind Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



*Energy Development in Northern Ireland's Landscapes: Supplementary Planning Guidance to Accompany Planning Policy Statement 18 'Renewable Energy' (2010)* (Appendix D pg 89) – This document is primarily focused on the siting of onshore wind farms and single wind turbines rather than in the offshore environment. Please refer to the **Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan consultation** which can be accessed at the following: [Offshore Renewable Energy | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](http://Offshore Renewable Energy | Department for the Economy (economy-ni.gov.uk))

Please contact the SEA Team at [seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:seateam@daera-ni.gov.uk) should you have any queries or require clarification.

Yours faithfully,

■ ■■■■■■■■

■■■■■■■■■  
Senior Scientific Officer  
Countryside, Coast and Landscape  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

***Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.***



An Agency within the Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**  
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne  
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

An Agency w<sup>i</sup>n the Depairtment o  
**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**  
We invest in people Standard