

Good afternoon Rachel,

As confirmed within the previous email, as long as the suggested risk mitigation measures take place, we would be content that the risk to shipping and navigation is relatively low on this occasion.

Best regards

Vinu

Vinu John

Navigation Policy Advisor
Marine Licensing and Consenting
UK Technical Services Navigation

+44 (0) 7970 156169

vinu.john@mcga.gov.uk



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Leave Alert: I will be on leave from 4th April 2024- 30th April 2024 and will be unavailable during this period.

From: Rachel Holmes <Rachel.Holmes@thecrownestate.co.uk>

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 2:33 PM

To: Vinu John <Vinu.John@mcga.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Notification of Grab Sample Surveys in Celtic Sea

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Hi Vinu,

I just wanted to check that my previous email addressed your concerns around our survey methods. Could you drop me an email to confirm that the risk to navigational safety is low, so we can include this with our application?

Many thanks

Rachel

From: Rachel Holmes

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:32 AM

To: Vinu John <Vinu.John@mcga.gov.uk>

Cc: William Wye <wwye@abpmer.co.uk>; Nick Salter <Nick.Salter@mcga.gov.uk>; Vaughan Jackson <Vaughan.Jackson@mcga.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Notification of Grab Sample Surveys in Celtic Sea

Hi Vinu,

Thanks for your email. I can confirm that all the requirements set out in your email will be complied with, specifically:

- All survey vessels are class and flag compliant and audited by TCE prior to deployment.
- A Notice to Mariners for the geophysical survey works will be issued well in advance of deployment.
- We will issue an additional Notice to Mariners for the grab sampling activity once locations are known.
- The two contact email addresses for HMCG will be added to the distribution list for all NtM's.
- We will issue a notification of the licensed activities to The Source Data Receipt team at the UK Hydrographic Office, at least 10 days before commencement of the works (including the start date and end dates, details of the works, working areas (WGS84), and marking arrangements).

We would be obliged if you could confirm by return of email that the risk to navigation is low and that you have no outstanding concerns about the proposed survey works.

Many thanks,

Rachel

From: Vinu John <Vinu.John@mcga.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 9:35 AM

To: Rachel Holmes <Rachel.Holmes@thecrownestate.co.uk>

Cc: William Wye <wwye@abpmer.co.uk>; Nick Salter <Nick.Salter@mcga.gov.uk>; Vaughan Jackson <Vaughan.Jackson@mcga.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Notification of Grab Sample Surveys in Celtic Sea

Good morning Rachel,

Thanks for confirming the requested marine license is band 1, you would require us to confirm whether the risk to navigation safety is low for NRW to issue Band 1 marine license. We the Technical Services Navigation Branch of MCA have reviewed the proposed activities and would like to comment as follows.

We note that the intention is to carry out 10 grab samples from each of the three Celtic Sea Floating Offshore Wind PDAs. On the understanding that the following risk mitigation measures take place, we would be content that the risk to shipping and navigation is relatively low on this occasion.

- All maritime safety legislations complied with.
- Local mariners and fishermen's organisations must be made fully aware of the activity through a local notification. This must be issued at least 5 days before the commencement of the works.
- Zone???@hmcg.gov.uk and renewables@hmcg.gov.uk must be notified prior to commencement of activities.

- A notification must be sent to The Source Data Receipt team, UK Hydrographic Office (email: sdr@ukho.gov.uk) of commencement of the licensed activities, at least 10 days before commencement of the works. The information supplied must include the start date and end date, a description of the works, positions of the work area (WGS84), and details of any marking arrangements.

Kindly confirm the acceptance of the above mitigation measures.

Best regards

Vinu

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From: Rachel Holmes <Rachel.Holmes@thecrownestate.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 11:27 AM
To: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mca.gov.uk>
Cc: William Wye <wwye@abpmer.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Notification of Grab Sample Surveys in Celtic Sea

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Hi Vinu,

I just wanted to check whether you had been able to view the marine licence we submitted to NRW and whether this provided enough detail to resolve any concerns you had over the grab sample surveys? The licence we're submitting falls under Band 1, and I'm not clear as to whether NRW consult on Band 1 licences.

For this reason it may be simpler for us to provide any additional information to you directly. Please could you set out what further information you require around methodologies and mitigation measures so that we can collate that information for you?

Many thanks

Rachel

From: navigation safety <navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:31 AM
To: Rachel Holmes <Rachel.Holmes@thecrownestate.co.uk>
Cc: Nick Salter <Nick.Salter@mcga.gov.uk>; Vaughan Jackson <Vaughan.Jackson@mcga.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Notification of Grab Sample Surveys in Celtic Sea

You don't often get email from navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning Rachel,

We are content with the proposed grab sample surveys in principle. However, we will need bit more details regarding the methodology and proposed mitigation measures. As you have already submitted marine license application to NRW we will comment with our formal responses to NRW when they open up the consultation.

Best regards

Vinu

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From: Rachel Holmes <Rachel.Holmes@thecrownestate.co.uk>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:18 PM
To: Vinu John <Vinu.John@mcga.gov.uk>
Subject: Notification of Grab Sample Surveys in Celtic Sea

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We are writing to notify you of grab sample surveys to be conducted in the Celtic Sea in 2024.

The Crown Estate intends to commission surveys to facilitate the deployment of floating offshore windfarms in the Celtic Sea. The objective of the surveys is to collect data within three Project Development Areas (PDAs) in the Celtic Sea prior to the projects being consented. By investing in these surveys at an early stage and making the data freely available to successful bidders, The Crown

Estate aims to accelerate the delivery of offshore windfarm projects, by making it easier for developers to manage risk and informing future project level planning applications.

Up to ten grab samples will be taken at each PDA and each sample will take around 40 minutes. The survey vessel will be stationary during the deployment and will display appropriate lights and/or day marks. A Fisheries Liaison Officer will be on board and a Fisheries Scout Vessel will also be employed on the project to notify vessels engaged in fishing activity. The survey vessel will adhere to the IMO convention on the international regulations for prevention of a collision at sea.

The sampling will take up to three days and is programmed to take place between 29th April and 31st October 2024. The sample sites do not coincide with any SACs or MCZs. We have attached a plan showing the locations of PDAs to this email.

We are currently submitting a marine licence application to Natural Resources Wales, and an exemption to Marine Management Organisation to conduct these surveys and we would be obliged if you could confirm receipt of this email and inform us of any concerns you may have about these works.

Many thanks,

Rachel

Rachel Holmes | Marine Consents Manager

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