Water Framework Directive assessment: scoping template for activities in estuarine and coastal waters

Use this template to record the findings of the scoping stage of your Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment for an activity in an estuary or coastal water.

If your activity will:

- take place in or affect more than one water body, complete a template for each water body
- include several different activities or stages as part of a larger project, complete a template for each activity as part of your overall WFD assessment

The WFD assessment guidance for estuarine and coastal waters will help you complete the table.

Your activity	Description, notes or more information
Applicant name	REM Engineering Limited
Application reference number (where applicable)	*Marine Licence Application - Reference TBC by NRW*
Name of activity	Barge Operations – Gelliswick Bay Phase 2 2019
Brief description of activity	Beach Landing Specialist Barge/Pontoons at Gelliswick Bay, Milford Haven to collect Abnormal Indivisible Loads from the former Murco Refinery, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire and to transport and discharge at the Port of Pembroke, Pembrokeshire. The proposed operation will involve multiple trips. It is necessary to undertake these operations by barge/pontoon as the loads are Indivisible and too large for transportation by road. The loads require to be transported under the Highway Wales alternative preferred "Water Policy".
Location of activity (central point XY coordinates or national grid reference)	*Gelliswick Bay – Milford Haven* Beach End 51.7099 64,N -5 062219 W / Barge End 51.7098 75,N -5 062181 W
Footprint of activity (ha)	N/A
Timings of activity (including start and finish dates)	Licence 01 March 2019 – 31 March 2020 (Proposed activity dates March – July TBC)

Extent of activity (for example size, scale frequency, expected volumes of output or discharge)	The proposed activities have no Outputs, Emissions or Discharges.
Use or release of chemicals (state which ones)	Non – The proposed activity does not involve the release of chemicals or substances.

Water body[1]	**Description, notes or more information**
WFD water body name	*Milford Haven Outer*
Water body ID	GB641008220000
River basin district name	*Western Wales*
Water body type (estuarine or coastal)	*Coastal*
Water body total area (ha)	*35,392*
Overall water body status (2015)	*Moderate*
Ecological status	*Moderate*
Chemical status	*Good*
Target water body status and deadline	*Good by 2027*
Hydromorphology status of water body	Not Designated A/HMWB
Heavily modified water body and for what use	*N/A*
Higher sensitivity habitats present	*None Present within 500m of beach landing*
Lower sensitivity habitats present	*None Present within 500mtr of beach landing*
Phytoplankton status	*High*
History of harmful algae	*None*
WFD protected areas within 2km	*None*

[1] *Water body information can be found in the Environment Agency's catchment data explorer and the water body summary table. Magic maps provide additional information on habitats and protected areas. Links to these information sources can be found in the WFD assessment guidance for estuarine and coastal waters.*

Specific risk information

Consider the potential risks of your activity to each of these receptors: hydromorphology, biology (habitats and fish), water quality and protected areas. Also consider invasive non-native species (INNS).

Section 1: Hydromorphology

Consider if hydromorphology is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find out the hydromorphology status of the water body, if it is classed as heavily modified and for what use.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Hydromorphology risk issue(s)
Could impact on the hydromorphology (for example morphology or tidal patterns) of a water body at high status		NO	*No risks identified*
Could significantly impact the hydromorphology of any water body		NO	*No risks identified*
Is in a water body that is heavily modified for the same use as your activity		NO	*No risks identified*

Record the findings for hydromorphology and go to section 2: biology.

Section 2: Biology

Habitats

Consider if habitats are at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table and Magic maps, or other sources of information if available, to find the location and size of these habitats.

Higher sensitivity habitats [2]	Lower sensitivity habitats [3]
chalk reef	cobbles, gravel and shingle
clam, cockle and oyster beds	intertidal soft sediments like sand and mud
intertidal seagrass	rocky shore
maerl	subtidal boulder fields
mussel beds, including blue and horse mussel	subtidal rocky reef
polychaete reef	subtidal soft sediments like sand and mud
saltmarsh	
subtidal kelp beds	
subtidal seagrass	

[2] *Higher sensitivity habitats have a low resistance to, and recovery rate, from human pressures.*

[3] *Lower sensitivity habitats have a medium to high resistance to, and recovery rate from, human pressures.*

Consider if the footprint[4] of your activity is:	Yes	No	Biology habitats risk issue(s)
0.5km^2 or larger		No to all	*No risks identified*
1% or more of the water body's area			*No risks identified*
Within 500m of any higher sensitivity habitat			*No risks identified*
1% or more of any lower sensitivity habitat			*No risks identified*

[4] *Note that a footprint may also be a temperature or sediment plume. For dredging activity, a footprint is 1.5 times the dredge area.*

Fish

Consider if fish are at risk from your activity, but only if your activity is in an estuary or could affect fish in or entering an estuary.

Consider if your activity:	Yes	No	Biology fish risk issue(s)
Is in an estuary and could affect fish in the estuary, outside the estuary but could delay or prevent fish entering it or could affect fish migrating through the estuary		NO	*No risks identified*
Could impact on normal fish behaviour like movement, migration or spawning (for example creating a physical barrier, noise, chemical change or a change in depth or flow)		NO	*No risks identified*
Could cause entrainment or impingement of fish		NO	*No risks identified*

Record the findings for biology habitats and fish and go to section 3: water quality.

Section 3: Water quality

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity.

Use the water body summary table to find information on phytoplankton status and harmful algae.

Consider if your activity:	**Yes**	**No**	**Water quality risk issue(s)**
Could affect water clarity, temperature, salinity, oxygen levels, nutrients or microbial patterns continuously for longer than a spring neap tidal cycle (about 14 days)		NO	*No risks identified*
Is in a water body with a phytoplankton status of moderate, poor or bad		NO	*No risks identified*
Is in a water body with a history of harmful algae		NO	*No risks identified*

Consider if water quality is at risk from your activity through the use, release or disturbance of chemicals.

If your activity uses or releases chemicals (for example through sediment disturbance or building works) consider if:	**Yes**	**No**	**Water quality risk issue(s)**
The chemicals are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list		NO	*No risks identified*
It disturbs sediment with contaminants above Cefas Action Level 1		NO	*No risks identified*

If your activity has a mixing zone (like a discharge pipeline or outfall) consider if:	Yes	No	Water quality risk issue(s)
The chemicals released are on the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) list		NO	*No risks identified*

[5] *Carry out your impact assessment using the Environment Agency's surface water pollution risk assessment guidance, part of Environmental Permitting Regulations guidance.*

Record the findings for water quality go on to section 4: WFD protected areas.

Section 4: WFD protected areas

Consider if WFD protected areas are at risk from your activity. These include:

- special areas of conservation (SAC)
- special protection areas (SPA)
- shellfish waters
- bathing waters
- nutrient sensitive areas

Use Magic maps to find information on the location of protected areas in your water body (and adjacent water bodies) within 2km of your activity.

Consider if your activity is:	Yes	No	Protected areas risk issue(s)
Within 2km of any WFD protected area[6]		NO	*No risks identified*

[6] *Note that a regulator can extend the 2km boundary if your activity has an especially high environmental risk.*

Record the findings for WFD protected areas and go to section 5: invasive non-native species.

Section 5: Invasive non-native species (INNS)

Consider if there is a risk your activity could introduce or spread INNS.

Risks of introducing or spreading INNS include:

- materials or equipment that have come from, had use in or travelled through other water bodies
- activities that help spread existing INNS, either within the immediate water body or other water bodies

Consider if your activity could:	Yes	No	INNS risk issue(s)
Introduce or spread INNS		NO	*No risks identified*

Record the findings for INNS and go to the summary section.

Summary

Summarise the results of scoping here.

Receptor	Potential risk to receptor?	Note the risk issue(s) for impact assessment
Hydromorphology	None	No Impact
Biology: habitats	None	No Impact
Biology: fish	None	No Impact
Water quality	None	No Impact
Protected areas	None	No Impact
Invasive non-native species	None	No Impact

If you haven't identified any receptors at risk during scoping, you don't need to continue to the impact assessment stage and your WFD assessment is complete.

If you've identified one or more receptors at risk during scoping, you should continue to the impact assessment stage.

Include your scoping results in the WFD assessment document you send to your activity's regulator as part of your application for permission to carry out the activity.