



Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

Fishery Liaison Plan.

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Glossary

TERM	DEFINITION
AyM	Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm
CP	Cooperation Payment
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIA Specialist	EIA Specialist
ES	Environmental Statement
FCSS	Fisheries Compensation Strategy Specialist
FLO	Fishery Liaison Officer
FLOWW	Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group
FLP	Fisheries Liaison Plan
FLR	Fishery Liaison Representative
KIS-ORCA	Kingfisher Information Service Offshore Renewables Cable Awareness
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
SCUK	Subsea Cables UK
TH	Trinity House
UKHO	UK Hydrographic Office

Summary

1. This Fisheries Liaison Plan ("FLP") has been produced to provide a clear statement to commercial fishermen and charter anglers ("fishers") who currently operate in or around the location of the proposed Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm ("AyM") about how the developer and project consultants will liaise with them.
2. This FLP has been developed in consultation with the fishers that operate in the AyM area and their representative bodies. It was issued for consultation for a month between 6th April and 6th May 2021, and discussed at an online meeting on 27th April 2021 at which comments on the plan were invited.
3. The objectives of the FLP are to ensure that fishers are:-
 - a. Kept well informed about the progress of the project;
 - b. Provided with adequate notice of survey, construction and other operations; and
 - c. Can operate safely in and around the proposed offshore wind farm.
4. This FLP has been produced in accordance with the relevant national guidance at an early stage in the project.
5. This version of the FLP relates to the development period of the project, up to the end of the Planning Inspectorate ("PINS") examination period. Should the project be consented, the FLP will be revised as the project progresses through to construction and operation.
6. The key features of this FLP are:-
 - a. AyM will appoint a Fishery Liaison Officer ("FLO") to liaise with commercial fishers and charter angling vessel operators in the area;
 - b. AyM will appoint an Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") specialist to consult with fishers and assess the impact of the project on fisheries in the area;

- c. AyM will appoint a Fisheries Cooperation Strategy Specialist ("FCSS") to assess the economic effects of the project on fishers in the area and advise on cooperation procedures and actions;
- d. AyM will seek to minimise adverse impacts of the project on fishers in the area by implementing the measures set out in this FLP.

Introduction

1. Project Description

Location

7. The location of the proposed Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (AyM) is shown in Figure 1 overleaf. The windfarm array site lies to the west of the original Gwynt y Môr wind farm, 12km north of the town of Llandudno and 10km off the Welsh coast. The offshore wind farm will be located within an area of 106km², in an average water depth of around 29m. The proposed windfarm will be linked to the National Grid by an export cable which will make its landfall on the north Wales coast.
8. The consent envelope for the design of the windfarm (ranges of number and size of turbines, types of foundation structures, range of lengths of inter-array cables, and export cabling) will be developed during 2021 and finalised for submission of consent applications in 2022. The design will be informed by the seabed survey data that was collected during May-September 2020.

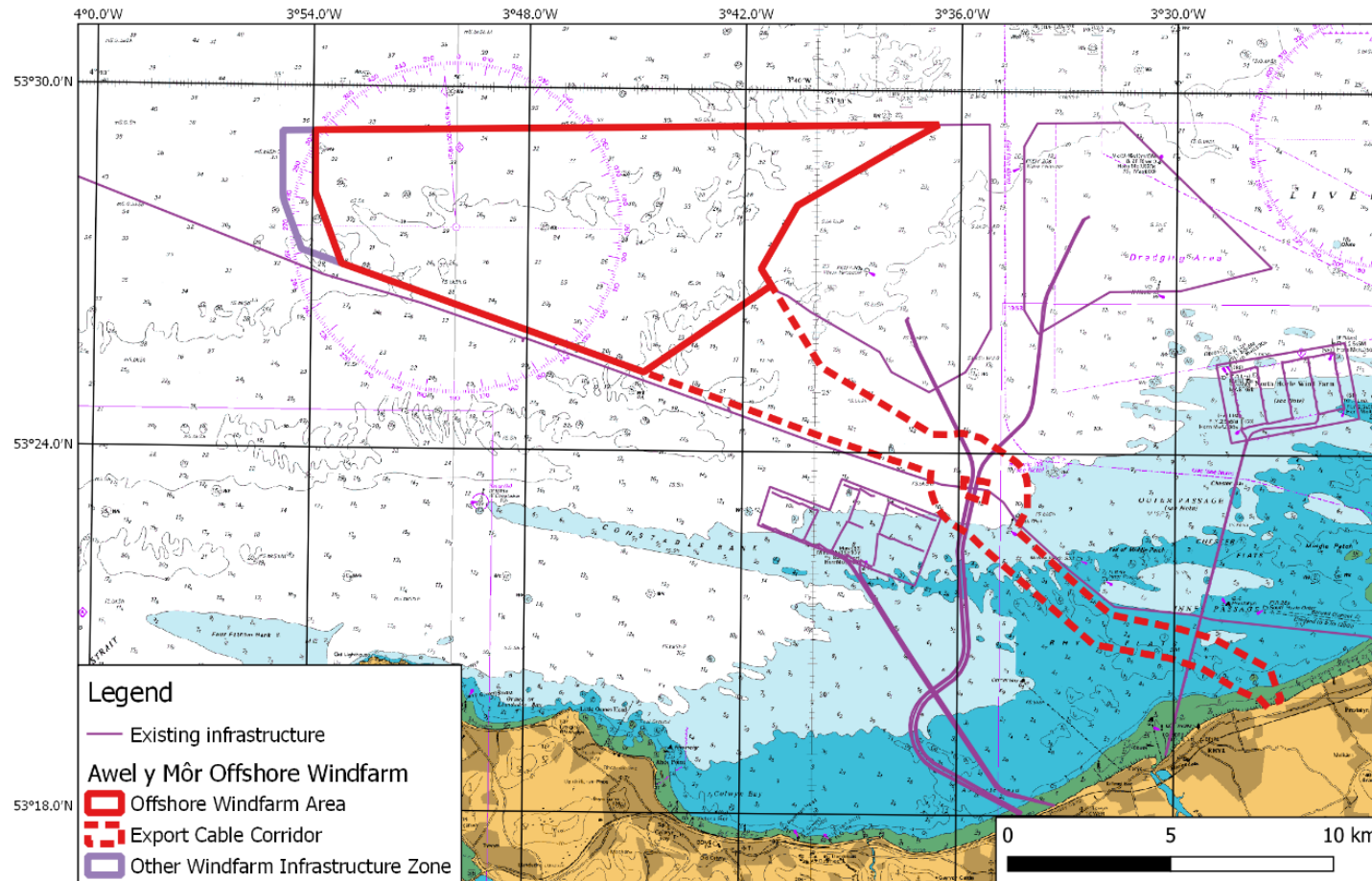


FIGURE 1: MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED AWEL Y MÔR OFFSHORE WIND FARM AND EXPORT CABLE CORRIDOR, APRIL 2021.

Timetable

9. The project is in the development stage and no consents have been granted yet. The AyM project will need a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) to be examined by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and granted by the Secretary of State for Energy in Westminster; and a Marine Licence to be examined and granted by Natural Resources Wales (“NRW”) on behalf of Welsh Ministers. Both applications will require an Environmental Statement (“ES”) setting out the Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) of the project. To inform the EIA, the developers conducted offshore surveys to characterise the physical and ecological baseline of the area in August and September 2020.
10. The project timetable covers a period from 2019 to 2030. The key stages in the project are summarised in Table 1 (note that the dates are indicative and subject to change as the project proceeds).

TABLE 1: INDICATIVE TIMETABLE FOR PROGRESSING THE PROPOSED AWEL Y MÔR OFFSHORE WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT.

Date	Activity	Status
Summer 2019	The Crown Estate concludes Habitats Regulations Assessment for Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm The Crown Estate announces Agreement for Lease ("AfL") for extension projects	✓
Autumn 2019 –Spring 2020	Innogy (RWE) agrees AfL for Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm	✓
Autumn 2019 –August 2020	Progress EIA phase, site selection & design development, including stakeholder and community engagement. Included: EIA Scoping Report shared with stakeholders 11 May, formal PINS (Scoping process ran 12 June to 12 July 2020) Site Selection process for EIA –ETG consultation completed June 2020	✓
September 2020 –August 2021	Meetings to discuss outcomes of scoping – Sept/Oct 2020	✓
	PEIR publication and start of formal consultation – August 2021	
2022	Development Consent Order (DCO) / Marine Licence (ML) applications submitted to PINS / NRW respectively	
2023-2024	Decisions on the DCO & ML	
2030	Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm operational by 2030	

11. The FLP is intended to provide clarity to stakeholders from the fishing industry on the approach to liaison for AyM. This version of the FLP relates to the development and consenting period of the project. If AyM is consented, the FLP will be updated to consider in more detail the pre-construction, construction and operational phases of the project.

2. Fisheries Liaison Plan

Legislation and Guidance

12. This Fisheries Liaison Plan ("FLP") has been developed and will be implemented in accordance with the following guidance:
- a. Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments (FLOWW 2014);
 - b. Subsea Cables UK Guideline No. 1 – Fishing Liaison Guidelines (SCUK 2012);
13. The FLP has been issued for consultation and discussion with fishers, representative organisations and the relevant statutory bodies in the area. It will be updated in response to any changes in the relevant guidance, legislation or consent conditions for the project.

Co-Existence

14. It is the intention of AyM to facilitate co-existence wherever possible during all phases of the project, which will include the implementation of mitigation strategies developed in consultation with the commercial and angling fishing industries to minimise the overall impacts of the project.
15. An Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") will be produced for this project. The EIA will assess all impacts, including those that may influence co-existence, including temporary exclusion from established fishing grounds, effects of noise and vibration on the resources exploited by the fishers, and changes to seabed habitat as a result of the associated project infrastructure.
16. A Fishery Liaison Officer ("FLO") and a Fisheries Cooperation Strategy Specialist ("FCSS") will be appointed by AyM to implement cooperation arrangements between the wind farm and fishing activities (see section 5.508.1).

Liaison with fishing interests

17. A FLO has been appointed by AyM to establish and maintain effective communications with fishers, their representatives and relevant stakeholders. Methods of promoting liaison shall include:-

- a. General Fisheries Liaison, including monitoring fishing activity & on-going communication with industry and project team;
- b. Organising meetings with fishers as appropriate to ensure that there is good awareness of proposed survey, construction and operational activities;
- c. Advising AYMOWF of potential interactions with fishing activity;
- d. Providing notices and information about proposed survey, construction and operational activities; and
- e. Assisting with the production of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project.

18. Liaison activities shall be carried out in as timely a manner as possible to minimise interference with fishing operations and other uses of the sea in the area.

19. Further details of the responsibilities and duties of the FLO are set out in paragraph 30 of this plan.

Distribution of information

20. Where possible AyM will provide a minimum 10 calendar days' notice of all upcoming activities at sea through Notices to Mariners ("NtM"). Where this period of notice is not possible, Mariners will be given as much notice as possible.

21. Notices to Mariners shall be communicated by the following methods, as appropriate: -

- a. Direct e-mail communication to fishermen, their representative organisations, and agents.

- b. Direct e-mail communication to harbourmasters and navigation authorities.
 - c. Postal communication to fishermen and organisations on request.
 - d. Notification to UK Hydrographic Office ("UKHO"), Trinity House ("TH"), and Kingfisher Information Service Offshore Renewables Cable Awareness ("KIS-ORCA").
 - e. Notices placed on websites maintained by the developer or their contractors.
 - f. Notices placed, as appropriate, in the media publications (such as Fishing News) which are customarily used to inform the fishing industry of such activity.
22. The level of detail set out in these notices shall be sufficient to allow fishermen to identify the timing and location of activities so that they can avoid adverse interaction with the proposed activities.
23. Information pertaining to safety and notification of potential hazards will be updated in accordance with the EIA and relevant DCO conditions.

Mitigation

24. Where identified within the EIA process, and if consented, where laid out in DCO and Marine Licence conditions, AyM will implement measures to mitigate the potential impacts of construction, operation and decommissioning of the project in line with national guidance.

3. Roles and responsibilities

25. The roles and responsibilities of the individuals and organisations from both the AyM project, the commercial fishing and the charter angling sector are described below. These roles are based on established practice for other projects as well as national guidance.

Project representatives

26. AyM has contracted experienced consultants to support the project and carry out certain key roles. As of the issue date of this document these roles and the companies fulfilling these responsibilities are defined as follows:-

- a. **Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)** – responsible for ensuring a flow of information between the AyM project team and fishers who may be affected by the project. This role is being fulfilled by AWJ Marine Ltd.
- b. **Fisheries Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) specialist** – responsible for undertaking EIA related consultation with fishing stakeholders and for assessing the significance of impact of the AyM project on fishers. This role is being fulfilled by Poseidon Aquatic Resource Management Ltd.
- c. **Fisheries Cooperation Strategy Specialist (FCSS)** – responsible for working with fishers who may be adversely affected by AyM and determining an appropriate response to impacts. This role is being fulfilled by Brown & May Marine Ltd.

27. Various vessels will be contracted to carry out survey and construction work as well as other duties associated with the project. Each vessel working on the project will nominate a representative to act as a point of contact with the FLO and to ensure that this FLP is implemented.

28. During the course of the project, it may be necessary to appoint individuals or organisations to fulfil the following roles:-

- a. **Fisheries Liaison Representatives (FLR)** – may be appointed if necessary to be present aboard project vessels to provide advice on the location of potential hazards connected with fishing activity.

29. The various liaison roles are described below in further detail.

Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

30. The FLO will support AyM project staff in connection with fisheries interactions during the pre-construction, construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. The FLO will work in accordance with FLOWW Guidance (FLOWW 2014) and any other relevant industry guidance in place at the time.

31. The key responsibilities of the FLO are:-

- a. General fisheries liaison, including:
 - i. Monitoring fishing activity
 - ii. On-going communication with industry and project team;
 - iii. Development & maintenance of Fisheries Liaison Plan;
 - iv. Development & maintenance of Fisheries Stakeholder database;
 - v. Set up a Fisheries Working Group involving commercial fishers and charter anglers;
- b. Assist the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process by:-
 - i. Facilitating meetings and discussions with relevant industry groups and individuals;
 - ii. Reviewing Commercial Fisheries baseline data;
 - iii. Supporting consultation on EIA Report baseline with fishing industry;
- c. Liaison ahead of and during offshore survey activities which may interact with fishing activities and the location of fishing gear including:-

- i. Advice regarding likely interaction of planned survey activity with fishing activity and gear and mitigation;
 - ii. Communication of planned activities to Fisheries Liaison Representatives (FLR), commercial fishing industry and key navigation stakeholders as appropriate;
 - iii. Liaison with FLOs engaged on other marine projects in region;
 - iv. Issue Notices to Mariners about proposed survey work.
- d. Support to the Project Team and Fisheries Cooperation Strategy Specialist by:-
 - i. Assisting the FCSS in identifying affected fishing interests.
 - ii. Identifying, if requested, publicly available sources of information which will assist the FCSS.
 - iii. Advising the FCSS if required on the approach to discussions and providing other advice as necessary.
 - iv. Ensure that the fishing interests who are party to Cooperation Payments (see paragraphs 33 & 34) implement the removal of gear or other activity as agreed, to ensure that the Project can proceed safely and to programme.

Fisheries Cooperation Strategy Specialists

32. A Fisheries Mitigation Strategy Specialist (FCSS) has been appointed by AyM to assess the scale of impacts that the project may have on fishers' businesses.

33. If the EIA demonstrates significant impacts are likely to occur, then the FCSS will work with the FLO to identify the most appropriate mitigation option for each business that may be impacted by AyM. This may include financial mitigation ("Cooperation Payments") in some cases.

34. Where a Cooperation Payment ("CP") is identified as an appropriate mitigation option, the key responsibilities of the FMSS are summarised below:-

- a. Assessment, negotiation and agreement of CP on behalf of the Project:
 - i. Provide a suitably experienced and qualified consultant(s) to undertake fisheries CP discussions for surveys and/or the Project.
 - ii. Identify the affected fishing interests and undertake a robust assessment of the impact to income arising directly as a consequence of Project surveys.
 - iii. Provide an assessment and modelling methodology, informed by industry knowledge, guidance and best practice (including FLOWW), on which the CP will be based.
 - iv. Negotiate with relevant fishing industries and obtain their co-operation to ensure that survey activities can be completed safely and without damage to fishing gear, survey equipment or vessels.
 - v. Where co-operation is dependent upon a CP, the FCSS will ensure that a fair value based on available data and knowledge of the local industry is negotiated and agreed.
 - vi. Ensure that the fishing industry parties to CP implement the removal of gear or other activity as required by the CP to ensure that the project can proceed safely and to programme.

Fisheries Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Specialist

35. A Fisheries EIA specialist has been appointed by AyM to assess the potential impacts that the project may have on the fishing industry. The key responsibilities of the fisheries EIA specialist are summarised below:-

- a. Consultation with commercial fishing industry and charter angling stakeholders to inform the baseline characterisation and the impact assessment.

- b. Communication and liaison with the FLO and FMSS to understand any day-to-day issues raised by the fishers operating across the proposed AyM project.
- c. Delivery of a Technical Report with detailed characterisation of the baseline commercial fishing and charter angler activity across the AyM proposed project.
- d. Delivery of the Commercial Fisheries Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) chapter and Environmental Statement chapter, including baseline description and impact assessment (including consideration of cumulative and transboundary effects and inter-relationships).

4. References

FLOWW. 2014. FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison. Page 74. Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group, Edinburgh, UK. <https://www.sff.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/FLOWW-Best-Practice-Guidance-for-Offshore-Renewables-Developments-Jan-2014.pdf>.

SCUK. 2012. Guideline No. 1 - Fishing Liaison Guidelines. Page 12. Subsea Cables UK.

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