

Guidance for mariners operating within, or in the vicinity of, RWE's Liverpool Bay Offshore Wind Farms v1.0

RWE operate three offshore wind farms within the Liverpool bay region, which will be collectively known as 'the projects' throughout this document

- North Hoyle
- Rhyl Flats
- Gwynt y Môr

This document is aimed to support coexistence efforts and continued cooperation between mariners and Liverpool Bay Offshore Wind Farms, by giving guidance to highlight some of the safety issues you may encounter within the sites.

We request that mariners familiarise themselves with the information within this document. If you are at all uncertain about any of the contents, or have any feedback you wish to submit, please get in touch with the FLO, using the contact details given later in this notice

Location of the Wind Farms

The boundary of the Wind Farms are marked on all of the current and corrected UK Hydrographic Office charts for the area, and all of the current and updated electronic charts for navigational plotters. Navigation information can be found in the UK Hydrographic Office publications and online. Fishing plotter files can be downloaded for the area from the KIS-ORCA website for different types of plotter here: [Downloads | KIS-ORCA](#) Please get in touch with the FLO if alternative formats are required.

Charts showing the location and layout of each Wind Farm (these charts are not to be used for navigation)

- Gwynt y Môr - <https://kis-orca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Chart-7-Gwynt-y-Mor.pdf>
- Rhyl Flats - <https://kis-orca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Chart-19-Rhyl-Flats.pdf>
- North Hoyle - <https://kis-orca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Chart-15-North-Hoyle.pdf>

Safety Zones – information taken from FLOWW Guidelines

Safety zones are granted by DECC, DEZNZ or the MMO during the construction; operations and maintenance and decommissioning phases of a wind farm development, in order to safeguard the safety of other users of the marine environment and the OREI itself by reducing the risk of collisions. Once the project is fully constructed and operating normally, operational safety zones are only approved if there is a clear justification for their implementation.

Offshore wind farm safety zones have applied a radius of 500m around turbine bases during construction (note this is the maximum allowed under international law), major maintenance and decommissioning phases and at a radius of 50m during the pre-commissioning phase. During the operational phase, safety zones may be granted around any structure where “major maintenance” is underway. The definition of “major maintenance” given within the Electricity Regulations 2007 is as follows:

“works relating to any renewable energy installation which has become operational, requiring the attachment to, or anchoring next to, such an installation of a self-elevating platform, jack- up barge, crane barge or other maintenance vessel.”

Project	Routine operations safety zone	Major Maintenance safety Zone	Relevant infrastructure
GyM	N/A	500m	WTGs, OSP & Met Mast
Rhyl Flats	N/A	500m	WTGs, OSP & Met Mast
North Hoyle	N/A	500m	WTGs, OSP & Met Mast

Safety Zones will be communicated via Notice to Mariners.

For safety reasons, access to, mooring to, or attaching items to any offshore structure within the field is strictly prohibited.

Safety on site

The crew transfer vessels (CTV) and other vessels deployed by the wind farm will be instructed to keep clear of any vessel displaying the correct lights / shapes to indicate that they are engaged in fishing. The CTV operators will be instructed to keep a safe passing distance and appropriate speed from angling vessels at all times.

Likewise we ask that all mariners keep a safe passing distance and appropriate speed from any Wind Farm vessel engaged in operational activity, in particular when transferring personnel and equipment.

The projects also request that mariners and any related equipment remain a safe distance of 50m from turbines and the OSP to facilitate safe access by maintenance vessels. The projects will provide notice of any identified hazards within the wind farm sites.

The project has the responsibility to protect and monitor cables and manage seabed hazards and requests that fishers take suitable action to avoid any notified hazards, and consider information shared via NtMs and other forms of communications to reduce the potential for snagging incidents and damage to cables as far as reasonably practical.

Communications protocol

In order to assist with the safety issues contained within this notice it is requested that mariners contact the relevant site before entering/exiting the field to ensure that you are aware of any hazards or activity on site.

Contact details

Offshore coordination are available 24 hours a day on the following information:

Offshore coordination	Duty mobile number:	Operational CTV's in field :
Gwynt y Môr Marine Coordinator	07827 244495	VHF 16
Rhyl Flats - Grimsby Central Control Room	01793 896 250	VHF 14/16
North Hoyle - Swindon Control Room	08009756660	VHF 14/16

Fishery Liaison Officer, Jim Andrews

- Phone number 07908-225865
- E-mail jim@awjmarine.co.uk

If contact is required, Site vessels will contact mariners on CH16 before swapping over to a private channel if discussion locations which may be sensitive to mariners.