

The Great Grid Upgrade

Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5)

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 2

Part 3

Appendix 23.B Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan
(FLCP)

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23.A. Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan

23.A.1 The Objective of the Plan

23.A.1.1 This Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan (FLCP) has been prepared by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET), herein the 'Applicant'. The objective of this Outline FLCP for the English Offshore Scheme is to clearly set out the Applicant's approach to facilitating co-existence between commercial fisheries and the works required to survey and install Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5) (herein referred to as the 'Project').

23.A.1.2 The Outline FLCP builds on the existing relationship established through the consultation undertaken in developing the Project and provides the high-level objectives and principles to be taken in respect to the ongoing liaison and engagement with the local fishing industry post consent and through the construction phase.

23.A.1.3 This Outline FLCP also summarises the key areas of potential interaction between the Project and local fishing communities; outlines the Project specific environmental measures proposed; and identifies how any issues that may arise would be managed and communicated. A more detailed FLCP would be produced post consent, once Project details and construction schedules are further developed.

23.A.1.4 The scope of this Outline FLCP relates to the construction phase only and covers the English elements of the Project.

23.A.1.5 The following definitions are relevant to this report:

- "English Onshore Scheme" – All components of EGL 5 between the electricity transmission connection point in England and the Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) in England.
- "English Offshore Scheme" – All components of EGL 5 within the English marine environment up to the Mean High-Water Springs (MHWS) in England.
- "the Project" – is the term used to refer all elements of EGL 5 which are the subject of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application i.e., the English Onshore Scheme and the English Offshore Scheme. More specifically, the Project comprises the 'Authorised' development and 'Associated' development for EGL 5 that will be subject to an application for Development Consent.
- "draft Order Limits" - The anticipated maximum area in which the construction and operation of the Project may take place. The draft Order Limits cover the entire area within which development could take place comprised of both temporary and permanent components of the Project; and
- "Study Area" – refers to the Study Area used for **Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 23: Commercial Fisheries** of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which comprises of management rectangles set by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) including ICES rectangles 35F0, 36F0, 36F1, 37F0, 38E9, 38F0, 39E9, 39F0, 40E9, 40F0, 41E9, and 42E9.

23.A.2 Guidance

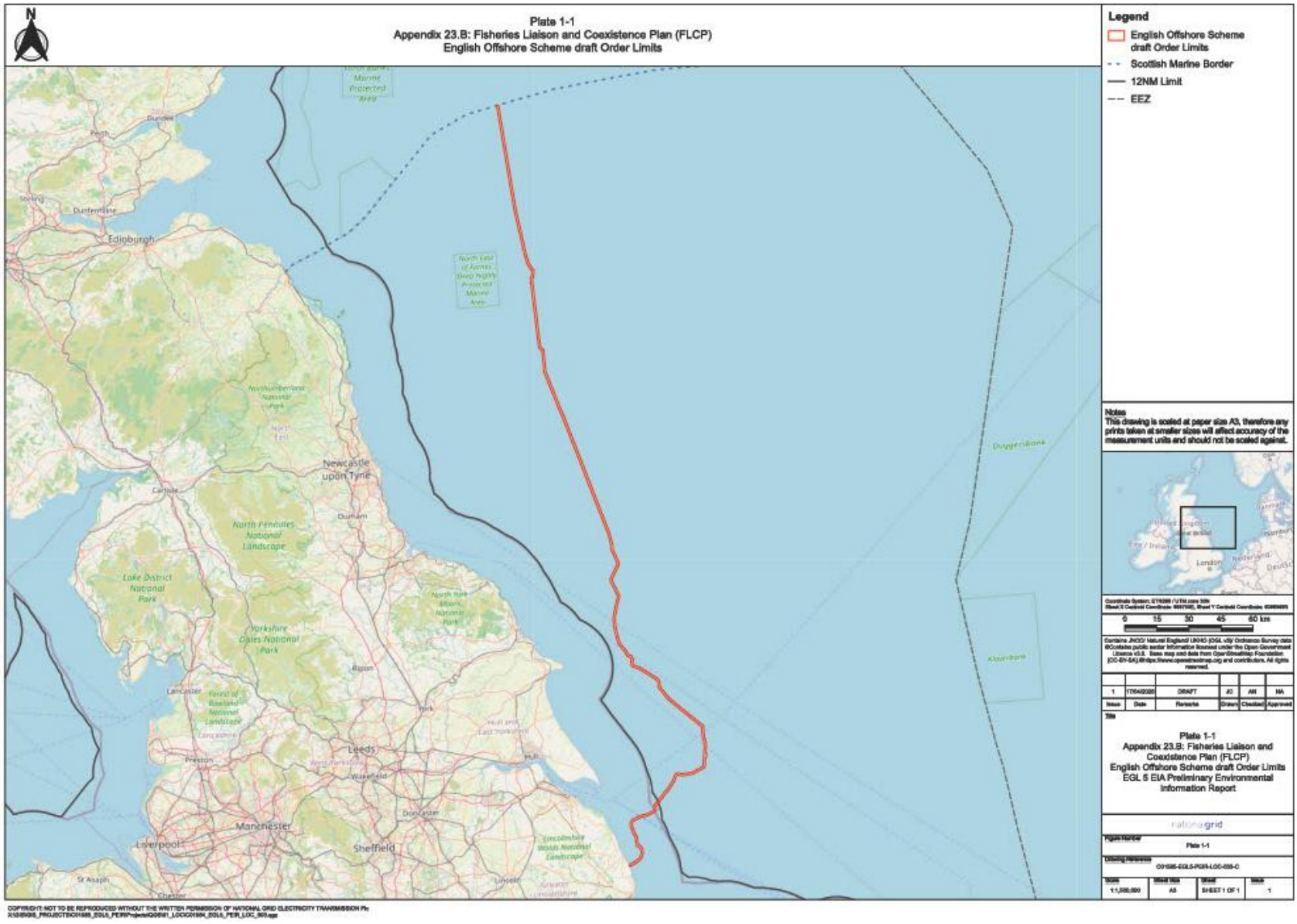
- 23.A.2.1 This Outline FLCP has been developed with reference to the PEIR which provides impact assessments relevant to commercial fisheries and associated environmental measures. This document is provided to establish overarching principles that would be adopted should the Project secure consent. This document will be updated post PEIR to accompany the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 23.A.2.2 It follows key guidance and information from Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments (**Ref 1.1**).

23.A.3 Background

The Project

- 23.A.3.1 The Project comprises a 2 gigawatt (GW) High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Peterhead, Aberdeenshire and Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire.
- 23.A.3.2 The English Offshore Scheme is sited within the English marine environment, through inshore and offshore waters, and up to MHWS in England. The most northerly elements of the English Offshore Scheme would be located at the boundary of English waters where it meets Scottish waters, and the most southerly elements would be located at MHWS at Anderby Creek, along the Lincolnshire coastline, at landfall.
- 23.A.3.3 The key elements of the English Offshore Scheme are summarised below and the draft Order Limits shown in **Plate 23.A-1**. The Project features up to 423 km of subsea HVDC cable from the landfall at Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire to where it meets the maritime boundary between English and Scottish waters. The subsea cable system would consist of two bundled HVDC cables and a fibre optic cable for control and monitoring purposes.

Plate 23.A-1 Draft Order Limits



Construction Activities and Programme

- 23.A.3.4 The construction programme for the English Offshore Scheme is expected to commence in 2030. It is anticipated that construction would take approximately 5 years with the English Offshore Scheme becoming operational in 2035.
- 23.A.3.5 Works at the landfall may commence in 2031 with installation of the ducts ahead of the main construction works.
- 23.A.3.6 The construction programme would be developed as the Project progresses and would take account of environmental conditions (e.g., weather, tides, currents), operational downtime, variable lead times for vessels and equipment, supply chain bottlenecks as well as implementation of any required mitigation measures for environmental sensitivities or sensitive receptors.
- 23.A.3.7 The English Offshore Scheme, including the trenchless technique at the Anderby Creek Landfall would be a 24-hour operation to minimise overall installation time, maximise the use of suitable weather and current windows and take advantage of vessel and equipment availability.
- 23.A.3.8 Activities that would be required for the cable installation are listed below, along with indicative durations. Cable route preparation may be undertaken in one single campaign along the entire length of the cable within the English Offshore Scheme or may be split and undertaken separately. For the purposes of assessment, it has been assumed that the Project will involve up to eight cable lay and burial campaigns. The exact phasing of some activities would depend on the Contractor and detailed design, but the main construction activities, along with indicative durations for the Project would include:
- Pre-installation surveys – 10 months;
 - Cable route / seabed preparation: 12 months – 14 months;
 - Cable lay and burial: 20 months;
 - Remedial external cable protection: 8 months; and
 - Post lay survey: 1 month – 2 months.
- 23.A.3.9 Due to the length of the Project, activities will occur at the same time with different works taking place in different areas of the English Offshore Scheme (for example, seabed preparation in one area and cable lay and burial in another).
- 23.A.3.10 Further information on the above activities can be found in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4: Description of the Project** of the PEIR.

23.A.4 Fishing Community

- 23.A.4.1 The draft Order Limits extend through an area that supports a wide range of commercial fishing activities, with vessels from several ports, all fishing throughout the year. Most fishing vessels are <10 m in length, which fish mainly within the 6 nautical mile (NM) limit and have limited capacity to fish beyond 12 NM. **Table 23.A-1** details the main fishing ports whose vessels may work along the English Offshore Scheme and are likely to receive landings from the 12 ICES rectangles that make up the Study Area. It is noted that there are vessels fishing from additional small harbours and rivers along the inshore part of the route, as well as nomadic and non-United Kingdom (UK) vessels:

Table 23.A-1 Vessel numbers from main fishing ports along the English Offshore scheme (Ref 1.2)

Port	≤10 m	>10 m	Total
Amble	3	394	397
Beadnell	9	0	9
Blyth	21	447	468
Boston	8	0	8
Brancaster Staithe	3	1	4
Bridlington	82	168	250
Brixham	0	1	1
Campbeltown	6	1	7
Cromer	2	0	2
Dunoon	3	0	3
Eyemouth	19	136	155
Flamborough	1	0	1
Fraserburgh	0	151	151
Great Yarmouth	18	0	18
Grimsby	108	419	527
Hartlepool	209	203	412
Holy Island	0	3	3
Hornsea	37	0	37
Hull	2	0	2
Ijmuiden	0	95	95
Kings Lynn	28	22	50
Kingsbridge	1	0	1
Leigh-On-Sea	2	0	2
Lowestoft	0	2	2
Macduff	0	5	5
Methil and Leven	0	9	9
North Shields	104	1,269	1,373
Peterhead	0	512	512

Port	≤10 m	>10 m	Total
Pittenweem	1	0	1
Portnalong	1	0	1
Redcar	10	0	10
Scarborough	65	94	159
Seaham	2	0	2
Seahouses	43	0	43
Shoreham-by-Sea	0	0	1
Skegness	7	0	7
South Shields	25	0	25
Staithes	21	0	21
Sunderland	11	0	11
Ulva Ferry	2	0	2
Vissengen	0	34	34
Wells	47	28	75
Whitby	98	105	203
Withernsea	44	0	44
Total	1,043	4,100	5,143

23.A.4.2 There are 5,143 active vessels associated with the main fishing ports, although not necessarily fishing within the Study Area. The target species of these vessel shellfish are primarily lobsters and crabs via pots and traps, Nephrops (*Nephrops norvegicus*) via trawl, and scallop (*Pecten maximus*) via dredge.

23.A.4.3 Fishers also target demersal and pelagic species including haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*), monk / anglerfish (primarily *Lophius piscatorius*), herring (*Clupea harengus*), mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) and horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*). Fishing methods include trawling, fixed netting, and gears using hooks.

23.A.4.4 The draft Order Limits are fished throughout the year and most under 10 m vessels use multiple methods dependent on the season and availability of species. Table 23.A-2 Table 23.A-2 Main species (by value) landed by gear type for 10 m and under UK vessels and for over 10 m UK vessels (based on analysis of 2024 landings data for ICES rectangles 35F0, 36F0, 36F1, 37F0, 38E9, 38F0, 39E9, 39F0, 40E9, 40F0, 41E9 and 42E9)(Ref 1.3) shows the main species landed by the different gear types for the different UK vessels sizes.

Table 23.A-2 Main species (by value) landed by gear type for 10 m and under UK vessels and for over 10 m UK vessels (based on analysis of 2024 landings data for ICES rectangles 35F0, 36F0, 36F1, 37F0, 38E9, 38F0, 39E9, 39F0, 40E9, 40F0, 41E9 and 42E9)(Ref 1.3)

Gear and value	10 m and under	Over 10 m
Pots and traps (£19,461,360)	Lobster (<i>Homarus gammarus</i>), brown crab (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>), whelks (<i>Buccinum undatum</i>)	Crab, lobster, whelks.
Demersal trawl (£2,412,338)	Nephrops, turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>), cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>)	Nephrops, halibut (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>), haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>).
Dredge (£1,502,474)	Scallops	Scallops
Beam trawl (£306,974)	Scallops, Nephrops, monk / anglerfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>)	Brown shrimp (<i>Crangon crangon</i>)
Pelagic trawl (£263,943)	-	Herring
Demersal seine (£164,939)	-	Haddock, whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>), mackerel.
Gears using hooks (£11,513)	Cod, bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>)	-

23.A.5 Fisheries Liaison & Coexistence Principles

Overarching principles

23.A.5.1 The Applicant is committed to providing effective liaison with local, regional, national, and transboundary fisheries stakeholders relevant to the English Offshore Scheme. The overarching principles of the fisheries coexistence plan include (but are not limited to):

- conducting construction activities relevant to the English Offshore Scheme whilst ensuring the health and safety of the Project workforce and third parties (e.g., fishing vessels);
- undertaking construction activities whilst minimising any disturbance to other activities as far as reasonably practicable; and
- providing accurate information in relation to construction activities to local fishers in a timely manner to support coexistence.

23.A.5.2 Once the detailed sequence of activities for the construction period has been determined, advance communications, Notices to Mariners (NtM) and Kingfisher Bulletin notifications would be issued to inform other sea users, including fishers. This would be updated throughout the construction period as required.

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23.A.5.3 The Applicant is to be familiar with relevant conditions attached to all licences, permits, consents and agreements obtained by the Project (and its Contractors) e.g., Deemed Marine Licence, Crown Estate Licence. The Applicant will inform stakeholders of how and when details are to be made available, along with why certain information may not be available at some times. The Applicant's role includes the sharing of:

- Potential infrastructure positions.
- Proposed subsea cable route.
- Cable burial / protection methods.
- Installation works and proposed works (including surveys) that may impact fishing / fisheries activities, such as:
 - changes to traffic routes and restrictions to vessel movements;
 - changes or additions to navigational aids;
 - prohibited / restricted areas and / or exclusion / safety zones;
 - home port(s) and routes of construction vessels to and from the cable route;
 - construction activities, cable routes and cable laying, and the anchor patterns of construction vessels;
 - the planned schedule for works;
 - details of vessels involved (including call signs, Inmarsat numbers, communications links, etc.);
 - vessel movements associated with the development (such as their planned routes, work times and movements to and from the construction sites); and
 - when fishing gear needs to be removed from a works area.

The Fishing Industry

23.A.5.4 The fishing industry are expected to share the following details with the Applicant:

- Fishing activities within the vicinity of the English Offshore Scheme and those fishers who actively target the area.
- Accurate fisheries data, knowledge and experience.
- Locations of important fish habitats.
- Information on seabed habitats, conditions, and mobility.
- Areas of potential conflict.
- Stakeholders contact lists (ensuring General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance).

Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

23.A.5.5 The benefits of early and ongoing consultation between the Applicant and the fishing community are recognised and the Applicant have engaged a FLO to communicate with the fishers that work along the route. Fisheries liaison would continue pre and post construction would endeavour to maintain good communication and the free flow of relevant information to all parties.

23.A.5.6 Additional fishing liaison roles may include an Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer (OFLO) if the works necessitate it. In the appointment of an OFLO it is recognised that local fishers knowledge of fishing practices and vessels in the area can reduce interactions between fishing activity and construction works. An outline of the fishing liaison roles and responsibilities is given in the following sections.

23.A.5.7 The FLO would be the first point of contact for any queries / concerns regarding the English Offshore Scheme. The duties of the FLO representing the Project include:

- Establishing and maintaining a strong positive working relationship with the local fishing industry acting as the day-to-day contact organising meetings as required and maintaining the flow of information between parties.
- To monitor fishing activities along the English Offshore Scheme.
- Maintaining an updated log / register of active fishers, fishing associations along the cable route, including name of vessel, method of fishing, owner etc.
- To distribute relevant information and NtM of any activities related to the English Offshore Scheme that could potentially interact with fisheries stakeholders.
- Having a detailed understanding and awareness of the local fishing industry advising on potential impacts of proposed works, fishing activities along the cable route, relevant fishers concerns and any timing sensitivities.

23.A.5.8 During the construction phase the FLO would be included on daily reports and would transmit any information to the fishers if deemed relevant. The FLO would be required to liaise with the local fishing industry regarding any up and coming works which may impact on fisheries operations. The FLO would ensure that fishers are made aware of all operations in progress; and are given early and adequate warning to enable such vessels to act, wherever possible, in order that interference between fishing and construction works are minimised. If works are delayed or over-run, then this would be communicated with the fishing industry at the earliest opportunity.

Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer (OFLO) (if required)

23.A.5.9 Prior to the commencement of any major works, an offshore FLO may be appointed, who would be present on the works vessel or guard vessel during offshore activities.

23.A.5.10 An OFLO would be maintained on board survey and construction vessels as required. The primary responsibilities of the OFLO would be:

- To regularly broadcast survey and construction vessel locations, operations, schedules, safety zones and health and safety requirements on relevant very high frequencies (VHF) and medium frequencies during operations.

- To maintain daily contact with fishing vessels observed to be within the vicinity of the work areas of survey and construction vessels and communicate upcoming plans and ideally work towards the relocation of any fishing gear present within the defined construction corridors, if required.
- To keep the masters and watch officers of survey and construction vessels informed of fishing vessels in the vicinity of their vessels working area and the gears and modes of operation of such vessels.
- To maintain daily contact with the onshore FLO.

23.A.6 Information Exchange

23.A.6.1 Disseminating information to all parties as early as possible and ensuring that effective lines of communication are maintained is key to an ongoing productive working relationship with fisheries stakeholders. The FLO would be responsible for establishing contact lists for the Fishermen's organisations and individuals, along the cable route.

23.A.6.2 Notices shall be given to sea users in the area of operations via NtM, Kingfisher Bulletins, Navigation Warnings Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) and Navigational Areas (NAVAREA) warnings, email, telephone and text as appropriate.

Notices to Mariners (NtMs)

23.A.6.3 NtMs shall be issued and distributed with a minimum notice period of 14 days and within 24 hours in emergencies. Notices would be distributed by the FLO via email, letter and text where appropriate. Notices shall include as much information as possible, relevant to Fishing activities. This should include, but not be limited to:

- A description of works due to be undertaken.
- Vessel name and contact number.
- A start date and proposed end date for the works.
- Whether operations are 24 hour.
- Whether buoys would be placed (e.g., at anchor positions) and if so, what are the lighting sequences etc.
- Whether any equipment would be left on the seabed.
- All work positions must be given in WGS84 Degrees and decimal minutes and
- A NtM would include an accompanying chart showing the work area.

Final Installation Coordinates

23.A.6.4 The Applicant would provide the coordinates for the following at the end of installation:

- Final installed position of cables.
- Final positions (including dimensions) of crossings and
- Final position of any remedial external cable protection (including dimensions and type of protection).

23.A.6.5 Final installation coordinates would be provided to Kingfisher Information Service – Offshore Renewable Cable Awareness (KIS-ORCA) and the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) for inclusion on Fishermen’s Awareness Charts and Admiralty Charts.

23.A.7 Safety

COLREGs

23.A.7.1 Project vessels would comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGs) (as amended) Marking and UK Standard Marking Schedule for Offshore Installations Marking, particularly with respect to the display of lights, shapes and signals.

Advisory Safety Zones

23.A.7.2 During all works the Applicant would aim to minimise the disruption to fishing activities along the route but for the safety of all mariners, would request an advisory 500 m safety zone around any works vessels. This is a standard approach for all offshore works and considered best practice. Should a fishing vessel need to enter an area within proximity of a work vessel, this must be communicated, requested and discussed by VHF before approaching.

23.A.7.3 A guard vessel may be on site to inform fishing vessels of anchor positions or other hazards to navigation and fishing. Should a fishing vessel need to enter the area enclosed by the anchors, this must be communicated, requested and discussed by VHF before approaching.

Guard Vessels

23.A.7.4 The Applicant would secure the services of guard vessels to ensure that the cable installation proceeds smoothly and safely, and fishing disruption is minimised. The Applicant has committed to providing guard vessels to follow the installation spread where appropriate (e.g., where there is significant navigational traffic and risk assessment identifies a guard vessel is necessary) and be deployed where the cable is exposed on the seabed i.e., between lay and burial / protection, or the installation is making a crossing of a third-party asset (e.g., existing pipeline or cable).

23.A.7.5 No guard vessels have been contracted yet. Guard vessels employed by the English Offshore Scheme would be suitable for the role and can withstand the expected weather conditions and other operating requirements, and the captain(s) and crew(s) shall have suitable and sufficient knowledge and experience of the construction operations and cable protection roles. Guard vessels would be sourced locally wherever possible to do so.

23.A.8 Environmental Measures

23.A.8.1 Environmental measures for the English Offshore Scheme relevant to commercial fishing are outlined in **Table 23.A-3**.

Table 23.A-3 Summary of Environmental Measures

Receptor	Potential changes and effects	Environmental measures	Compliance mechanism
All gear types.	General safety.	For safety purposes, all vessels would be requested to maintain a minimum distance from construction vessels to prevent interactions.	Construction Environmental Management Plan) CEMP and FLCP secured through Deemed Marine Licence (DML).
All gear types.	General safety.	As built locations of cable and external cable protection would be supplied to UKHO (Admiralty), The Crown Estate and Kingfisher (KIS-ORCA).	Secured through DML.
		Cut cable end locations and associated weights shall be accurately noted and charted and positions supplied to the UKHO (Admiralty), The Crown Estate, Kingfisher (KIS-ORCA) and the Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) at the earliest opportunity for onward communication.	CEMP and FLCP secured through DML.
Demersal gear.	Risk of snagging (as assessed in Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 22: Shipping and Navigation).	If cable exposures are identified during routine surveys, the location of these will be shared with fisheries stakeholders and where necessary, additional temporary measures put in place (e.g., marker buoys, use of guard vessels, etc), until a repair or remediation can be implemented.	CEMP and FLCP secured through DML.
		Guard vessel(s), using Radio Detection and Ranging (RADAR) with Automatic RADAR Plotting Aid (ARPA) to monitor vessel activity and predict possible interactions, would be employed to work alongside the installation vessel(s) during cable installation works and to protect any temporary cable exposures during installation.	CEMP and FLCP secured through DML.

Receptor	Potential changes and effects	Environmental measures	Compliance mechanism
All gear types.	Risk of snagging / Loss of grounds due to deposit of external cable protection.	The cables shall be buried in the seabed, except in areas where burial is not possible e.g., where ground conditions do not allow or at infrastructure crossings.	CEMP secured through DML.
		External cable protection features would only be installed where considered necessary for the safe operation of the English Offshore Scheme. This includes the repair of cables due to accidental damage, where target burial depth is not achieved and at infrastructure crossings	CEMP secured through DML.
		Where rock protection is used for cable protection, consideration will be given to design that minimise the risk of fishing gear snagging (i.e., use of 1:3 profiles).	CEMP and FLCP secured through DML.
		A procedure for the claim of loss of / or damage to fishing gear would be developed and details included in the Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan submitted post-consent.	FLCP secured through DML.
All gear types.	Temporary restricted access to fishing ground (including required static gear clearance) due to the presence of Project vessels and equipment.	Designated (and as minimal as possible) anchoring areas and protocols shall be employed during offshore operations to minimise physical disturbance of the seabed.	CEMP secured through DML.
		During cable route clearance, specific activities will be completed to remove items from the seabed. In the event that abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear ('ALDFG') is encountered, it may be necessary in certain circumstances to bring ALDFG onto the vessel deck. In these instances, marked ALDFG would be returned to the MMO/local Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) for onward retrieval by the owner of the marked gear, in line with existing best practice. Not all gear (particularly 'active' gear) is marked; if necessary to bring onto the vessel deck, unmarked gear would be disposed of via conventional onshore waste channels.	FLCP secured through DML.

Receptor	Potential changes and effects	Environmental measures	Compliance mechanism
		Where the English Offshore Scheme encounters Out of Service (OOS) cables, if deemed necessary, those OOS cables will be cut and their ends made safe with weights. Any cut cable lengths will be retrieved to the deck of the vessel for disposal onshore via conventional onshore waste channels. Any cut cable end locations and associated weights shall be accurately noted and charted and positions given to the FLO at the earliest opportunity for onward communication to the fishing industry.	FLCP secured through DML.
		Relevant information will be communicated to other sea users Notices to Mariners (NtM), Kingfisher Bulletins, Radio Navigation Warnings, Navigational Telex (NAVTEX) and Navigational Areas (NAVAREA) warnings and / or broadcast warnings	Secured through DML.
		All Project vessels would display appropriate marks and lights and would always broadcast their status on AIS if appropriate.	Secured through DML.
		A Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) and / or fisheries working group(s) will be maintained throughout installation to ensure Project information is effectively disseminated, dialogue is maintained with the commercial fishing industry and access to home ports is maintained during the main fishing season. Details of the FLO would be included in the Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan submitted post-consent.	Secured through DML and FLCP.
		Timings of any temporary areas of exclusion from fishing grounds will be clearly communicated via a Notice to Mariners and communicated by the FLO directly to local fishing associations and known fishers as required.	FLCP secured through DML.

23.A.8.2 Environmental measures would continue to be developed in consultation with the local fishing industry. A preliminary list of environmental measures is provided in **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 5.A: Outline Register of Design Measures** and **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 5.C: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan**. A final list of all measures will be provided with the ES in an Environmental Mitigation and Commitments Register.

23.A.9 Contact Details

23.A.9.1 A full list of contact details would be provided in the FLCP.

Table 23.A-4 Contacts

Role	Contact Name	Email	Telephone
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23.A.9.2 Other contacts to be confirmed once Contracts are awarded.

Bibliography

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