



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE:

FS007062 SAIPEM-SEAI Site Investigations for AFLOWT test at AMETS site

Request for observations from [REDACTED] (DECLG) dated 29.05.2020

Overview

An Interreg project AFLOWT is investigating the Floating Offshore Wind (FOW) technology. SEAI are partners in this project and a site off the Mayo coast has been classified as an Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site (AMETS). It is proposed to apply for a licence to deploy a 6MW turbine. In advance of that licence site investigations are required.

Proposed surveys

1.3	Type of surveys proposed (e.g. geophysical, geotechnical, archaeological or benthic. Geophysical surveys as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Multi-Beam Echo Sounder (MBES)- Side-Scan Sonar (SSS)- Sub-Bottom Profiling (SBP) Geotechnical survey as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cone Penetration Testing (CPT) Ecological survey as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Benthic sampling of the subtidal and the intertidal sediment
------------	--

Schedule for works

Works are scheduled for 1 month (subject to weather) between June – September 2020

[REDACTED]



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

IFI Comments

Mitigation measures in regard to the timing of works and also in regard to levels and duration of noise generation and potential for adverse impact on fish species should be agreed with Foreshore Division DHPCLG and form part of any foreshore licence. IFI would point out that the mitigation measures and guidance of NPWS in regard to marine mammals are not transferrable to fish species. The fish remain invisible to any shore- or boat- [REDACTED]

The short sampling window proposed in this application will mitigate the effects of the work on the local fish population. The comments of IFI in this regard relate to fish species of conservation significance and of leisure angling significance all of which constitute part of IFI's brief.

Further mitigations for fish should cover:

- Use of soft-start and ramp-up procedures for any sound-generating surveys undertaken – both on a day-to-day basis and on re-start after any stoppages within any day
- duration of noise-generating surveys to be reduced to the minimum necessary to collect results of sufficient quality

The IFI comments above do not cover commercial marine fish and the advice of SFPA should be sought in regard to impacts on the eggs/larvae and adult life stages of commercially-important fish species in the area of the proposed works.

The proposed ecological surveys should include a study of the fish present in the target areas and the migratory species that pass through this area. There is very little information on the migration track of diadromous species such as salmon, sea trout and eels migrating along our coastline however there is potentially diadromous species passing this headland and should be taken into account. This study would benefit the foreshore licence application for deployment of the turbine and connecting cable in a few years' time. A note on the use of the area as a recreational fishing spot should also be incorporated into a study to determine any impact the deployment of the turbine will have on this sector. The local Belmullet angling club should be notified before works commence as they hold competitions in the area during the summer months.

[REDACTED] (IFI [REDACTED] & [REDACTED] (IFI)
04.06.2020