

Watch the Albatross

The latest leap forward in fisheries surveillance? Albatross spies.

Scientists have designed a device with a GPS antenna to track location, another to detect ship radar, a third to send the data back to headquarters and a solar panel to power them, which can be mounted on the backs of the birds, to identify boats that have turned off their AIS and send their location back to authorities.

Albatrosses are perfectly suited to such missions on account of the long distances they travel and their attraction to fishing boats – which, scientists say, they can spot from 30km away. When the bird detects a boat and homes in on it, the device picks up the radar signal of the boat and sends the coordinates back to the scientists.

The technology, shared by New Zealand and France, was trialled late last year when 169 Albatrosses were fitted with these lightweight devices and released south of the Indian Ocean. Of 353 radar contacts made, about 30% were from vessels in national waters that had turned off their AIS. In international waters, 36.9% of the vessels detected had the system turned off.

Cheaper than satellite monitoring as a means of collecting real-time data, if unlikely to replace it, researchers say the success of the project shows it is a form of surveillance that could possibly accompany satellite monitoring. However, directing birds to spy in particular areas would require the knowledge of bird experts, and advances in technology are already being made which in all likelihood will negate the need for albatross spies.

In Europe, just last month, it was announced the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) has taken up a remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) developed by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The EFCA has been using a drone which takes off from the Lundy Sentinel patrol vessel and operates over 'areas of interest' in the seas around Europe.

By flying in the vicinity of a fishing vessel, the remote-controlled aircraft can collect data from different activities on board. This data is then transmitted in real-time to EFCA's liaison officer on board the Lundy Sentinel, as well as to EFCA's coordination centre in Vigo, and EMSA's headquarters in Lisbon.

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE LICENCE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19 of the Foreshore Act, 1933 that Energia Renewables ROI Ltd., The Liberty Centre, Blanchardstown Retail Park, Dublin D15 YT2H has applied to the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government for a licence under Section 3 of the said Act for site investigation survey works in the South Irish Sea off the Co. Wexford/Wicklow coastline.

A copy of the application, and the relevant maps, plans, and drawings, are available for inspection for the next 30 days, free of charge, at:

- **Wexford Garda Station, Mulgannon, Wexford Town, Co. Wexford;**
- **Gorey Garda Station, Main Street, Gorey, Co. Wexford and**
- **Arklow Garda Station, Abbey Street, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.**

The documentation is available on the Department's website www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/energia-site-investigation-wexford-coast

Any person who wishes to make an objection to, or a representation in respect of the grant of the licence sought should do so in writing, giving reasons, between the dates of 4th March and 6th April (quoting ref: FS 007048), to the Marine Planning Policy and Development Section, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or foreshore@housing.gov.ie. The closing date for submissions is close of business on Monday 6th April 2020.

All objections and representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment prior to any decision being made in the matter. Material upon which the Minister shall determine this application may be published on the Department's website. In this regard the Department wishes to draw attention to its policy on defamatory material that may be contained in submissions it receives, which may be found at: www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/public-participation-foreshore-consent-process

Dated this 4th day of March 2020

Name and address: Energia Renewables ROI Ltd.,
The Liberty Centre, Blanchardstown Retail Park,
Dublin, D15 YT2H

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A FORESHORE CONSENT



Shannon Foynes Port Company Foreshore Application for a Jetty Structure at Foynes, County Limerick

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 19A of the Foreshore Act 1933 (as amended), that the Shannon Foynes Port Company, Harbour Office, Mill House, Foynes, Co. Limerick has applied for consent under the Foreshore Acts to occupy an area of foreshore for a Jetty Structure at Foynes, County Limerick.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared in respect of this proposal. The foreshore application, EIAR, associated documents, all relevant maps, site plans and drawings may be inspected at the following locations:

- **Newcastle West Garda Station, (Open 24 Hours)**
Churchtown Road,
Newcastlewest,
Co. Limerick V42 YX31
- **Foynes Library (10am-5pm**
Main Street, Corrig,
Foynes,
County Limerick
Tuesday,
Thursday Friday;
10am-1pm and
4pm-8pm Wednesday
- **Limerick City and County Council (9am-5pm Monday**
City Hall,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick,
V94 EH90.
to Friday),

A hard copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report may be purchased from the applicant. A Non Technical Summary may be obtained free of charge.

CDs that include the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, maps, site plans and drawings, and a copy of the foreshore application are available free of charge from the applicant at the address stated above or by emailing engineering@sfpcc.ie.

The application may also be viewed on the following dedicated website: www.foreshorefoynes.sfpcc.ie and on the Department's website: www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/shannon-foynes-port-company-0

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government is responsible for making a decision on this application and he may either grant, approve or consent to the application with or without covenants, conditions or agreements, where applicable, or refuse the application.

Section 19C of the Foreshore Act does not apply to this application.

Submissions, comments in relation to the proposal may be made in writing within 8 weeks from the publication of this notice to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government at Foreshore Unit, Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford or by e-mail to foreshore@housing.gov.ie (Quoting Ref: MS FS006837). The closing date for the receipt of written submissions, comments or questions is therefore 17:30 on 23/03/2020.

Within 8 weeks from the publication of this notice, a copy of the application, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and any other relevant report or information (including copies of any submissions, comments, or questions received by the appropriate Minister) may be inspected free of charge at the Foreshore Unit, Department for Housing, Planning Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co. Wexford during the hours 10:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday. All of this material, including submissions from the public, will also be published on the website of the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government at: www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/shannon-foynes-port-company-0

Dated this 23rd day of January 2020

Name and Address:
John Carlton, Shannon Foynes Port,
Mill House, Foynes, Co. Limerick