

[REDACTED]
Foreshore Unit,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Newtown Road,
Co. Wexford
22nd August 2022

Marine Adviser Environment Screening Stage Report

Re: FS006983– a Site Investigation surveys at Bunmahon Bay, Co. Waterford and Bannow Bay, Co. Wexford.

Applicant: SSE Renewables

In response to your email of the 22nd of August 2022 I have reviewed the Foreshore Application FS006983 and all the environmental documents associated with it. My comments on and recommendations for this application are as follows:

Independent Environmental Consultant (IEC): The Department engaged **Roughan & O'Donovan** as an IEC to provide assistance with regard to the statutory and non-statutory environmental assessments of this Foreshore Lease application. The IEC has conducted independent assessments of the information provided by the Applicant, having regard to the Habitats Directive.

Risk Assessment of Annex IV Species

A review of the applicant's environmental reports provide sufficient relevant information in order for a Risk Assessment of Annex IV species to be carried out by the IEC. With strict adherence to the DAHG 2014 guidance on underwater noise as outlined in the IEC's report it is very unlikely that any Annex IV species will be disturbed, injured or killed as a result of the proposed site investigation works. Having considered the application by SSE Renewables and the IEC's Risk Assessment of Annex IV species report I agree with and accept this report and its conclusions.

It should be noted that this risk assessment is not part of the Article 6.3 assessment and therefore identification and inclusion of mitigation measures within the risk assessment is appropriated at this stage.

Article 6(3) of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive): Following a review of the proposed project, the IEC complete a **Screening for Appropriate Assessment** which concluded that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on European sites.

Having considered the application by SSE Renewables and the IEC's Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report I agree with and accept the Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report and its conclusions. My signed Recommending Officer's **Screening for Appropriate Assessment Determination** which requires the signature of the Minister as part of the decision-makers obligations under the Habitats Directive is attached.

On completion of the Public and Prescribed Bodies Consultation and the work of the IEC, I will furnish my Final Environmental Report with Determinations. This may include specific conditions having regard to the information obtained during the Consultation phase.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer - Marine Advisor Environment:

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the recommending officer.

22nd of August 2022

Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment

Project reference: FS006983– a Site Investigation surveys at Bunmahon Bay, Co. Waterford and Bannow Bay, Co. Wexford.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('The Regulations'), the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has undertaken Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the Site Investigation surveys at Bunmahon Bay, Co. Waterford and Bannow Bay, Co. Wexford, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effects on a European sites.

In accordance with Regulation 42(6) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have significant effects on any European sites. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites cannot be excluded on the basis of objective evidence. This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the proposed development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer - Marine Advisor Environment:



22nd August 2022

Signature and Date of Minister of State for Local Government and Planning: