

## **Foreshore licence application by DP Energy Ireland –Site Investigations at Inis Ealga (FS006859)**

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## **Prescribed Body Observations - Consolidated**

### **MARINE SURVEY OFFICE (MSO)**

I refer to the above and wish to advise that a detailed navigation risk assessment will be required to be presented to this office prior to the commencement of site investigation works due to the area of interest being in very close proximity to port approaches and local fishing grounds..

This assessment should include all correspondence with local harbour authorities, CIL and the Irish Coast Guard.

## **MARINE LICENCE VETTING COMMITTEE (MLVC)**

### **Overview**

The Inis Ealga project is a key part of a wider strategic development of wind and wave sites that DP Energy Ireland (DPEI) are planning. DPEI are investigating the feasibility of developing an offshore floating wind energy prospect off the south coast of 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-based observer. Mitigation measures should aim to reduce the sound generated, in intensity and duration. Seasonality of the sampling and a short sampling window may also provide some mitigation.

The Natura impact statement states that salmon, sea lamprey and river lamprey are not sensitive to underwater noise changes (page 38); only shad are described as being impacted by this work. It may be the case that, although salmon and other hearing-generalist species may not 'hear' sound they may not be immune to any adverse physical or physiological impact of the transmitted sound.

The area for works is likely part of the migration pathway of many migratory Annex II species and the effect of a disruption to the migration of these species should be taken into account during the scheduling of works and on the impact on the final location of the windfarms. There is very little information on the migration track of salmon or sea trout smolts leaving our freshwater rivers into coastal areas. If species migrate straight out to sea the placing of wind turbines in this path could hinder migration whereas turbines offset to allow gaps at these locations could reduce the impact.

The mitigations for fish should cover:

- . Reduction in the number of sound-requiring test types to be employed
- . 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
- . Agreed timing of works so as not to interfere with migration times of fish life stages
- . Short sampling window to mitigate long term effects

IFI believe it is important that as part of the faunal surveys that the extent of nursery habitat for fish species is noted. The use of the coastal waters as feeding areas for many fish species needs to be taken into account. A record of the ecosystem reflecting the food web and the

species present should be recorded to ensure that if and when the wind farm is constructed the baseline food web and ecosystem can be assessed. Any benefits derived from the construction of the 'wind farm will be visible by an increase in biodiversity or at the very least no reduction in biodiversity. This survey should also record all fish species present in the area both commercial and non-commercial (see below).

The south and south east coast of Ireland is a world renowned location for recreational angling with angling centres and charter skippers located from Dungarvan to Baltimore. The impact of works on the species and their habitats should be incorporated into the faunal surveys. We note the appointment of a fisheries liaison officer however the recreational angling sector should also be consulted on.

The application highlights the potential for cumulative impacts due to other works taking place in the vicinity. IFI would be concerned with the overlap in area and the potential for prolonged noise generating works if coordination of efforts are not undertaken. The relevant foreshore applicants should liaise to ensure there is sufficient time gap between works to reduce the impact on the local fish population.

The location of the cable route connection should be well designed taking into account the presence of cartilaginous fish and eel migration pathways as these fish can be affected by electromagnetic fields.

## MARINE INSTITUTE

### **Marine Institute Comments on Foreshore Licence Application by Inish Ealga Marine Energy Park Ltd – Site Investigations in the Celtic Sea off the coast of Cork and Waterford (FS006859)**

Inish Ealga Marine Energy Park Ltd. has submitted an application for a Foreshore Licence to carry out site investigations in the Celtic Sea off the coast of counties Cork and Waterford.

The overall aim of the site investigations is to collect the necessary data and information required to inform the engineering and detailed design of an offshore windfarm in the area and also to acquire baseline data on the wind resource and environmental conditions in the area. The possible installation of a windfarm and associated infrastructure in the area in the future would be the subject of a separate Foreshore Lease / Licence application and is not the subject of this current application.

The location of the proposed site investigations area is shown in the following drawings submitted by the applicant:

- “Foreshore Licence Map 1”, dated 16/01/2020
- Figure 1.1 “Inish Ealga Marine Energy Park”, dated 17/02/2020
- Figure 2 “Geographic Coordinates of Area”, dated 16/01/2020

It is proposed that the site investigations will include:

**Geophysical Survey** - involving the use of multibeam echo sounder, magnetometer, sub-bottom profiler and side scan sonar. Details of the equipment to be used and the survey locations are set out in the submitted by the applicant. It is proposed that the geophysical survey will be undertaken within the boundary of the foreshore licence area

**Geotechnical survey** – involving cone penetration testing as well as vibrocoreing and drilling of boreholes. Details of the equipment to be used and the survey locations are set out in the document entitled “document entitled “Inis Ealga Application for Site Investigation – Schedule of Survey Works”, dated 17th February 2020 submitted by the applicant. The proposed survey area and indicative sampling sites are shown in Figure 13 “Indicative Sampling Locations”, dated 29/01/2020 submitted by the applicant. The exact location, quantity, type, and penetration of the geotechnical samples will be determined following interpretation of geophysical survey.

**Environmental**– to include subtidal and intertidal benthic ecology. Subtidal benthic samples will be collected using a range of standard sampling methods including grabs well as Drop down camera and video transects. Details of the equipment to be used and the survey locations are set out in the document entitled “document entitled “Inis Ealga document entitled “Inis Ealga Application for Site Investigation – Schedule of Survey Works”, dated 17th February 2020 Application for Site Investigation – Schedule of Survey Works”, dated 17th February 2020 submitted by the applicant. The exact location and quantity of the environmental samples will be determined following interpretation of geophysical survey. The proposed survey area and indicative sampling sites are shown in Figure 13 “Indicative

Sampling Locations”, dated 29/01/2020 submitted by the applicant. Intertidal floral and faunal surveys at proposed cable landfall locations will include transects, quadrats and core sampling. The exact location of the intertidal survey will not be known until the preferred export cable route and landfall has been chosen

**Birds and Mammals surveys** - Boat based marine mammals/reptile and seabird surveys will be carried out using aerial / drone surveys as well as towed hydrophone arrays and static acoustic monitoring using C-PODS. The location of these surveys will depend on the location of the geophysical and geotechnical survey.

**Metocean monitoring** - It is also intended to deploy of wind, wave and current measuring devices (LIDAR buoy, Waverider and ADCPs) in the survey area. Details of the equipment to be used and the survey locations are set out in the document entitled “document entitled “Inis Ealga Application for Site Investigation – Schedule of Survey Works”, dated 17th February 2020 submitted by the applicant. Exact details of the LiDAR buoy, and ADCP deployment location within the application area, associated mooring arrangement and installation vessel will not be available until a contract has been awarded.

It is proposed that the survey works will be carried out between April and October within the five years following award of the Foreshore licence and subject to weather conditions. The following provisional work programme is proposed by the applicant:

- Geophysical survey (including Archaeology and Benthic): Summer 2020 (3 months window MidApril to Mid-July) in association with the benthic sampling programme. It is clear, however, that this proposed survey time window will now not be possible.
- Geotechnical: Option for preliminary survey Summer 2022 (2-month window August to September) and main survey Spring/Summer 2023 (4-month window).
- Wind Resource Monitoring: Start Summer 2020 for a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 36 months.
- Metocean Survey: Current resource monitoring – Start Summer 2020 for a period of 3 months –
- Intertidal: Spring 2021
- Birds & Marine Mammal: Spring 2020 (2 years duration seasonal)

There will be impacts on the seabed resulting from the Geotechnical surveys involving cone penetration testing vibrocoring, drilling of boreholes as well as a result of the collection of grab samples. Given the number of sampling sites proposed and the nature and scale of the sampling method proposed, significant impact on the seabed, including species and habitats, are not considered likely. Depending on the type and size of grab sampler used, volumes of sediment recovered per grab will range from between 0.003 – 0.015m<sup>3</sup>. Vibrocores may penetrate up to 6m into the seabed and have a diameter of 150mm. Therefore, sample volumes will be up to 0.12m<sup>3</sup>. For 100 collected samples, the worst-case volume of sediment removed will be 24m<sup>3</sup>. No sediment will be removed during cone penetration testing. The proposed drilling of 2 No. boreholes in the intertidal area will result in the removal of a maximum of 0.25m<sup>3</sup> at each location and the cuttings would cover an area of 1.82m<sup>2</sup> at each site.

There are no licenced aquaculture sites within the proposed site investigation area on the Foreshore. Collection of seabed samples within any licenced aquaculture site is not proposed and therefore significant impacts on aquaculture activity are not considered likely.

There is commercial fishing activity within the proposed site investigation area on the Foreshore and therefore some interaction with fishing activity may occur. Considering the scale, timing and duration of the proposed investigations it is considered that that such interaction will be limited and overall will not be significant. Notwithstanding this, it is noted that the applicant has stated that a Fisheries Liaison Officer has been appointed. It is recommended that the appointment of the Fisheries Liaison Officer should be a specific condition on any licence that may be granted.

On the basis of the above and considering the nature, scale and location of the proposed site investigations the Marine Institute is satisfied that the site investigations as proposed will not have a significant impact on the marine environment in the survey area and will not have a significant impact on other legitimate uses / users of the area and therefore has no objections to a licence being granted. It is recommended that the following specific conditions should be attached to any licence that may issue:

1. The Licensee shall use that part of the Foreshore the subject matter of this licence for the purposes as outlined in the application and for no other purposes whatsoever.
2. The Licensee shall ensure that the works are carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application.
3. The Licensee shall appoint a Fisheries Liaison Officer who shall consult with the SFPA, relevant fishermen's groups and charter boat skippers in order that appropriate actions can be taken to avoid or minimize any interactions with ongoing fishing / angling activities in the area during the course of the investigations.
4. The Licensee shall ensure that the measures set out in Section 7 of the document entitled "Inis Ealga Application for Site Investigation – Schedule of Survey Works", dated 17th February 2020, are implemented in full.

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD AND THE MARINE**

I refer to your request for comments from the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine, in relation to site investigation works at Inis Ealga, please see the following:-

There are no impacts on Fishery Harbours due to this proposed activity.

There are no licensed aquaculture sites in immediate proximity to the proposed foreshore area.

It is not likely that the works will have any impact on aquaculture.

Possible impacts, if any, on existing wild fisheries in the area, with an emphasis on the possible implications for the SFPA conducting official controls and possible non-compliance issues that could arise.

Impacts, if any, on shellfish growing areas adjacent to or within the area and the possible impact on the ability of the SFPA to conduct official controls and possible non-compliance issues that could arise.

Possible impacts, if any, on seafood safety.

The site investigations as proposed will not have a significant impact on the marine environment in the survey area and will not have a significant impact on other legitimate uses / users of the area.

**It is important to note that should a foreshore licence be applied for, there will be certain specific conditions included in the foreshore licence.**

## **NPWS, UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT (UAU)**

Please find the heritage recommendations of the Department for the above mentioned application.

### **Underwater Archaeology**

The Department notes the foreshore licence application by DP Energy Ltd. for site investigation works for offshore windfarm at Inis Ealga, off Cork coast and intention to include an archaeological assessment. It is further noted that the schedule of proposed works are for geophysical survey in advance of all other works, though the archaeological assessment does not appear to form part of the schedule of works.

The proposed site investigation works are located within areas of high archaeological potential, for areas within the coastal, foreshore/intertidal and subtidal environments. Given the location of the proposed sites and associated works, it is possible that underwater cultural heritage (UCH) and adjacent archaeology (e.g. upper foreshore/coastal and terrestrial) may be impacted by both site investigation works (grab sampling, etc.) and full works thereafter.

It is a recommendation of this Department that the services of a suitably qualified and suitably experienced should be engaged to carry out the Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) in advance of the geophysical survey, to inform on the potential for UCH to be present in the areas that are to be the focus of survey.

A synopsis of the following as appended to end of this letter and should be attached as conditions to any Foreshore Licence that may be granted:

### **Archaeological Consultant**

- A licence-eligible, suitably qualified underwater archaeologist should be engaged to carry out the Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA).
- The archaeologist should also be suitably experienced, with a track record in dealing with marine and offshore developments, resultant report submission, etc.
- The archaeologist should also be suitably experienced, with a track record in dealing with and the interpretation of marine geophysical data for archaeological purposes, including ensuring it is of sufficient specification for the identification of underwater cultural heritage.
- A detailed method statement should accompany their licence applications to the National Monuments Service for consideration (both for a Dive Survey Licence to cover the UAIA and a Detection Device Licence to cover the geophysical survey assessment for archaeological purposes and foreshore survey). The licences shall be issued as required under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.
- The archaeologist should be compliant with all licensing requirements, including being up to date with report submissions, etc.

**Desktop study:**

- A detailed archaeological desktop study should be carried in advance to address all relevant sources to inform on the proposed site investigation study locations and areas that are to form the location for the offshore windfarm.
- The desktop study should address the coastal, foreshore and offshore areas.
- While the application is for a Foreshore Licence, it is advised that the desktop study also include any proposed terrestrial/onshore works, so that all the proposed works can be assessed as one project, ensuring efficiencies in the archaeological assessment.
- All relevant sources should be consulted including but not limited to: The WIID and HEV; The Topographical Files of the National Museum of Ireland; published journalistic sources, local sources, relevant historic charts, maps, etc.
- The desktop study should seek to inform on the archaeological potential of the areas and the significance of any identified cultural heritage.

**Field survey:**

For the current application a field survey (e.g. of foreshore and coastal areas and areas to be impacted by future landfall works), will not be required. However, such a survey will be required in advance of any SI works in the foreshore and landward environments. The survey will be as follows:

- A detailed visual walk-over survey accompanied by a metal detection survey of the areas on the foreshore/intertidal zone should be undertaken in advance of any SI works, as part of the UAIA.
- It is advised that if there are to be terrestrial works for any landings, then this too is assessed by way of archaeological survey and inspection at this point.
- All identified sites, features or anomalies should be georeferenced and mapped to ensure a positive location is given for them, which in turn can inform on exclusion zones or the need for further archaeological mitigation.
- The foreshore/intertidal survey should be undertaken at maximum low water spring tides, to allow the widest area to be assessed.

**Geophysical Surveys:**

- The proposed geophysical surveys should be licenced under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014. All relevant geophysical surveys should be carried out in advance of any impacts by the proposed Site Investigation/Geotechnical works and in advance of the deployment of metocean monitoring equipment, to ensure all potential impacts to the underwater cultural heritage is avoided.

- The geophysical surveys shall be carried out in compliance with the Department's specifications for the undertaking of Marine Geophysical Survey for Archaeological Purposes.

### **UAIA Report**

- Once the UAIA has been done, the full information should be compiled into a report and submitted to the Underwater Archaeology Unit, National Monuments Service for review and further comment. The applicant shall be prepared to be advised by the Department in this regard.
- Results of the Desktop study, geophysical data interpretation, etc. shall be compiled.
- For wrecks and other sites identified, or the potential location of same, the results should be reviewed by the applicants and the archaeologists and appropriate exclusions placed around them to ensure they are avoided by the proposed SI works.
- Detailed charts showing the location of the proposed SI works in relation to all geophysical anomalies and all proposed exclusion zones should be forwarded to the Department for review and agreement in advance of works proceeding.
- The UAIA Report should contain a detailed Impact Assessment to address all identified cultural heritage and should also make recommendations on mitigation measures to avoid all impacts to the archaeology. If potential or identified sites, features or artefacts cannot be avoided (preservation *in situ*), then the UAIA Report Recommendations should put forward an archaeological mitigation to address this, including preservation by record (archaeological testing and/or full archaeological excavation).

### **Site Investigation works:**

- The UAIA Report Recommendations should put forward a methodology for the archaeological monitoring of Site Investigation works. Such a strategy may include that all trial pits and other SI works on the foreshore should be archaeologically monitored while the UAIA Recommendations should propose a scaled monitoring for the offshore SI works (particularly grab samples).
- The results of all SI works should be made available to the consultant archaeologist for review, including core samples, etc. Such assessment would seek to identify any cultural material contents, evidence for palaeo-environments, etc.
- A follow up Archaeological Report detailing the results of the SI samples should be forwarded to the Department for review and consideration and to inform any future Foreshore/Planning application for the proposed offshore windfarm.

Once the Underwater Archaeology Unit, National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht have had the opportunity to review the UAIA Report,

we may issue further recommendations. It should be borne in mind that should significant archaeological remains be identified, further archaeological mitigation may be required.

**Synopsised requirements to be included as a CONDITION on any Foreshore Licence issued:**

- A licence-eligible, suitably qualified underwater archaeologist should be engaged to carry out the Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA).
- The archaeologist should also be suitably experienced, with a track record in dealing with marine and offshore developments, resultant report submission, etc. and should be fully compliant with the licensing requirements for report submission.
- The archaeologist should also be suitably experienced, with a track record in dealing with and the interpretation of marine geophysical data for archaeological purposes, including ensuring it is of sufficient specification for the identification of underwater cultural heritage.
- A detailed method statement should accompany their licence applications to the National Monuments Service for consideration (both for a Dive Survey Licence to cover the UAIA and a Detection Device Licence to cover the geophysical survey assessment for archaeological purposes and foreshore survey). The licences shall be issued as required under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.
- A detailed visual walk-over survey accompanied by a metal detection survey of the areas on the foreshore/intertidal zone should be undertaken in advance of any SI works, as part of the UAIA.
- The proposed geophysical surveys should be licenced under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2014. All relevant geophysical surveys should be carried out in advance of any impacts by the proposed Site Investigation/Geotechnical works and in advance of any deployment of metocean monitoring equipment, to ensure all potential impacts to the underwater cultural heritage is avoided.
- Once all surveys and interpretations have been done, the full information should be compiled into a UAIA report and submitted to the Underwater Archaeology Unit, National Monuments Service for review and further comment.
- The UAIA Report should contain a detailed Impact Assessment to address all identified cultural heritage and should also make recommendations on mitigation measures to avoid all impacts to the archaeology. If potential or identified sites, features or artefacts cannot be avoided (preservation *in situ*), then the UAIA Report Recommendations should put forward an archaeological mitigation to address this, including preservation by record (archaeological testing and/or full archaeological excavation).
- The UAIA Report Recommendations should put forward a methodology for the archaeological monitoring of Site Investigation works. Such a strategy may include

that all trial pits and other SI works on the foreshore should be archaeologically monitored while the UAIA Recommendations should propose a scaled monitoring for the offshore SI works (particularly grab samples).

- The results of all SI works should be made available to the consultant archaeologist for review, including core samples, etc. Such assessment would seek to identify any cultural material contents, evidence for palaeo-environments, etc.
- The applicant shall be prepared to be advised by this Department in regard to the recommendations made in the UAIA or any subsequent recommendations that may issue by us.

## **NPWS, DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS UNIT (DAU)**

Please find the heritage recommendations of the Department for the above mentioned application.

### **Nature Conservation**

The proposed site survey to support the development of the Inis Ealga Marine Energy Park has been evaluated by a Natura Impact Statement and other documents.

The conclusion of the Natura Impact Statement document is that the proposed works are unlikely to pose a significant likely risk to nature conservation interests in the vicinity.

Potential interaction with marine mammals can be ameliorated by the application of “Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters” for works that would occur in applicable areas. National Parks & Wildlife Service request that utilisation of this guidance should be added as a condition of consent



[REDACTED]  
Foreshore Unit,  
Department of the Housing, Local Government & Heritage,  
Newtown Road,  
Co. Wexford.

14/07/2022

**File Ref:** FS006859

**Re:** Foreshore Licence application for Site Investigation for potential Offshore Renewable Energy Development off the West Waterford and East Cork Coast.

**Applicant:** Inis Ealga Marine Energy Park Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary project company of DP Energy Ireland.

**Site Location:** Off the West Waterford and East Cork Coast.

**Supporting information considered:**

- Application Form.
- Application Drawings and Maps
- Schedule of Works
- Natura Impact Statement.

**Project Overview and Background**

DP Energy Ireland (DPEI) is investigating the feasibility of developing an offshore floating wind energy prospect off the south coast of Ireland, the Inis Ealga Marine Energy Park (IEMEP). DPEI intend to carry out site investigations within the prospect area, potential export cable corridors and landfall areas to assess the site and associated seabed. The results of which will be used to select optimal cable route(s), landfall option(s), windfarm layout and provide baseline data for environmental impact assessments.

**Brief description of the proposed works.**

The proposed IEMEP includes two development. The intention is that the development would be linked by cables, with one export cable to shore. There are currently three potential export cable corridors; one of which will be selected as the preferred route after site investigations. The IEMEP lies partly within the 12 nautical mile (NM) limit (i.e. state owned foreshore) and partly outside of the 12NM limit (i.e. not state owned foreshore). This foreshore licence application only covers the area within the 12NM limit and the three potential export cable routes.

**Type of surveys proposed.**

**Geophysical:** Geophysical studies to determine seabed conditions (and ultimately installation methods and cable protection measures) along the cable route, foreshore project area and mooring/anchorage areas. Investigations to include multibeam echosounder (MBES), side scan sonar (SSS), sub-bottom profiler (SBP), magnetometer survey.

**Geotechnical:** To evaluate the nature and mechanical properties of the superficial seabed sediments and intertidal sediments in the application area. Following review of the geophysical data a limited number of export cable and landfall options will be selected for



geotechnical sampling. Investigations to include for example grab sampling, cone penetration testing, vibrocores and landfall boreholes.

**Wind Resource and Metocean Survey:** To evaluate wind and wave conditions, proposed survey methodologies include deployment of LiDAR buoy and Waverider buoys. An acoustic doppler current profiler (ADCP) will be used to assess tidal currents in the area.

**Archaeological:** A desktop study exercise will be undertaken to inform the approach to assessment of on and offshore cultural heritage interests and magnetometer survey to identify any underwater features of importance.

**Benthic and Intertidal:** Detailed studies of the habitats and species within the infrastructure footprint and along the cable route, including intertidal landfall sites.

**Birds & Marine Mammal:** Surveys (e.g. boat-based/aerial/drone offshore surveys, acoustic monitoring) to determine usage of the area.

## **Marine Advisor Assessment and Review**

### **Coastal Processes**

The proposed site investigation works will have no impact on the existing coastal processes.

### **Estate Management**

#### **Site Consent and Application History**

The proposed site investigations under this application will not conflict with any existing consented activities, developments or any applications under consideration.

All foreshore is presumed state owned unless proven otherwise. There are no known or established claims of private ownership of the foreshore within the proposed licence area. Therefore the foreshore the subject of this application is currently presumed state owned and proposed development does not conflict with the existing overlapping and adjacent consents or applications nor does it significantly injure the public use of, access to and enjoyment of the foreshore.

Total area of foreshore the subject of the application and for valuation purposes is: **92468ha**

#### **Public Interest and National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)**

Section 2 and 3 of the Foreshore Act, as amended, states that a lease or licence of state foreshore may be granted “If, in the opinion of the Minister, it is in the public interest”. As state owned foreshore is a finite and valuable state resource and a public amenity, it is important that each plan and project is fully assessed to ensure, that if consented to, it is a sustainable and proper use of that resource.

The NMPF is a national plan for Ireland’s marine area including the Foreshore. It sets out, over a 20-year horizon, how we want to use, protect and enjoy our marine area. The NMPF sits at the top of the hierarchy of plans and sectoral policies for the marine area and provides a coherent framework in which those sectoral policies and objectives can be realised. All decisions on individual applications determined under the Foreshore Act, must secure and be consistent with the objectives of the plan, similar to the way that terrestrial plans form part of the decision-making tool-kit in the on-land planning process. NMPF objectives are supported by specific policies that articulate factors that can form part of objective consideration.

The NMPF Chapter 13: Energy Offshore Renewables sets out the key objectives and Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) policies relating to Offshore Renewables including the following objectives;

- Support the development of ORE in Ireland as a driver to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the move to cleaner energy in line with national and EU policy.

- Increase the sustainable ORE use of our extensive marine resource in an efficient and co-ordinated manner identifying, where possible, potential for synergies and opportunities for multi-use of our shared maritime area.
- Support Ireland's decarbonisation journey through increased use of ORE while delivering significant and sustained benefits, import substitution, fiscal return, national and local economic development and technology learning.
- Support the strategic growth of the ORE industry recognising the potential to derive benefits particularly for Ireland's coastal communities.
- Provide enhanced security of energy supply for Ireland in the short and medium term, in accordance with the Climate Action Plan.

Having reviewed and assessed the information on file for this application to conduct an ORE Site Investigation against the objectives of the NMPF, I am satisfied the project is consistent with key objectives of Chapter 13 Offshore Renewable Energy of the NMPF and the works as proposed are in the public interest.

### **Assessment & Conclusion**

The foreshore the subject of this application off the West Waterford and East Cork Coast is state owned, there are no conflicts with existing licences, leases or applications and the works as proposed are in the public interest and consistent with the NMPF. The works if completed as proposed will not have significant adverse impacts on the public use of, access to and enjoyment of the foreshore, navigation, fisheries or the environment (subject to MLVC confirmation). Condition 4 below is amended by this report to the below considering that only 2 boreholes from a barge are proposed at the single chosen cable land fall.

### **Recommendation**

I have no objection to the granting of Foreshore Licence under Section 3 of the Foreshore Act for this application subject to the following conditions;

1. The Licensee shall use that part of the foreshore, the subject matter of this licence for the purposes as outlined in the application and for no other purposes whatsoever.
2. The following drawing shall be attached to and referenced in the licence document; Foreshore Licence Map 1, Filename: ForeshoreLicenceMap1, Ver: V1. Date: 16/01/2020.
3. The licensee shall notify the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at least 14 days in advance of the commencement of any works on the foreshore. This notification shall include an up to date Programme of Works for the completion of the project.
4. During the course of the shore and nearshore site investigation works the Licensee shall ensure that public access to, use and enjoyment of the beach and shore is maintained and not hindered significantly and all necessary precautions are put in place to protect the public in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
5. The foreshore shall be restored to its natural condition on completion of the site investigation works to the satisfaction of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
6. The Licensee shall submit, to the Department, the 'as deployed' location for all monitoring devices.
7. At the end of each phase and/or calendar year, the Licensee shall inform the Department of the work completed to date and the works planned for the coming year.

8. The Licensee shall ensure that contractors, and their subcontractors, are made aware of all conditions and project specific requirements and they are required to have briefings on these to ensure all parties are fully aware of these requirements



\_\_\_\_\_ M.Eng. M.I.E.I.  
Engineering Inspector and Marine Advisor