

## APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

**Project reference:** FS007062 SEAI AFLOWT, at Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site (AMETS), Mayo - Site Investigation.

The site investigation activities proposed in this application are multi-beam echo sounder (MBES), side-scan sonar (SSS), sub-bottom profiling (SBP), cone penetration testing (CPT) and benthic sampling of subtidal and intertidal sediments.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening process determined that it is not possible to discount likely significant effects with respect to 3 number of European sites, namely West Connacht Coast SAC [IE002998], Inishkea Islands SAC [IE000507], and Duvillaun Islands SAC [IE000495].

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 made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment was required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect the integrity of European sites, in view of the said sites' conservation objectives.

Measures to mitigate against the likely significant effect are identified in the Natura Impact Statement (25<sup>th</sup> June 2020). Further mitigation measures identified through the Prescribed Bodies Consultation will be included in the licence conditions. The adherence to these measures is considered appropriate mitigation to avoid significant effects on conservation objectives of any European site.

It is therefore determined that the proposed project, either alone or in-combination with other projects, will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

**Signature of Marine Advisor Environment:**  26th August 2022

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



8th November 2022