1.1 CWPL response to IFI

Thank you for providing comments on the Codling Wind Park (CWP) Foreshore Investigation Licence Application. CWPL note that IFI refer to the wind farm extension throughout their response and CWPL feel that it is important to highlight that the proposed site investigation works relate to the entire CWP site as explained in Chapter 1 of the Supplementary Information document.

It might be worth noting that the consultation that is currently underway is to undertake surveys as part of a Foreshore Investigation Licence that will inform the design and layout of the project, and feed into the environmental impact assessments that will be required, as opposed to an application to construct and operate an offshore windfarm. The potential impacts of the construction and operational phases of the wind farm will be assessed in a comprehensive EIAR that will be prepared by environmental specialists in consultation with a wider range of stakeholders, including the fishing community, as part of the planning application.

CWPL acknowledge IFI's concern that fish species are not mentioned in the risk assessment report however, this risk assessment report only covers European Protected Species (EPS). Fish species are covered within the supplementary information document (please see sections 3.4, 4.5 and 5.3).

CWPL acknowledge IFI's comments on the mitigation measures they would like to see used within the site investigation activities and will take these into consideration as we refine our geoscience strategy. With respect to soft-start and ramp-up procedures, CWPL have committed to these as mitigation measures with respect to marine mammals therefore fish species will also benefit.

CWPL have received a consultation response from SFPA in relation to the proposed site investigation works and they raised no concerns in relation to commercially important fish species. In addition, CWPL have received a consultation response from Marine Institute in relation to the proposed site investigation works and they have raised no concerns.

CWPL acknowledge IFI's comments on the impacts to fish species, the grounds they use and the migration paths they take however, CWPL feel that they have addressed these comments within the Supplementary Information document attached to the application.

In relation to cumulative impacts, these are addressed in Appendices 2 and 3 and the list of projects considered listed in Appendix 12. CWPL feel that the cumulative impacts have been addressed within the aforementioned appendices. Going forward, any cumulative impacts in relation to the construction of the wind farm will be assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report that will be submitted in due course with a new planning application.

Codling Wind Park Ltd value the importance of early, transparent and ongoing stakeholder engagement. Offshore wind development is a lengthy process that can take up to ten years, from concept to completion of construction. We look forward to continued engagement and to being proactive in the development of a long-term relationship with you.

Regarding the FILA application we would be more than happy to arrange a call with yourself or have a discussion with you over the coming weeks.

1.2 CWPL response to MI

Thank you for providing comments on the Codling Wind Park (CWP) Foreshore Investigation Licence Application.

In addition to the mitigations as set out in the FILA, CWP will comply with all licence conditions as directed by DHPLG Foreshore Unit

Codling Wind Park Ltd value the importance of early, transparent and ongoing stakeholder engagement. Offshore wind development is a lengthy process that can take up to ten years, from concept to completion of construction. We look forward to continued engagement and to being proactive in the development of a long-term relationship with you.

1.3 CWPL response to SFPA

Thank you for providing a response to the Codling Wind Park (CWP) Foreshore Investigation Licence Application.

Codling Wind Park Ltd value the importance of early, transparent and ongoing stakeholder engagement. Offshore wind development is a lengthy process that can take up to ten years, from concept to completion of construction. We look forward to continued engagement and to being proactive in the development of a long-term relationship with you.

1.4 CWPL response to MSO

Thank you for providing comments on the Codling Wind Park (CWP) Foreshore Investigation Licence Application. CWPL acknowledge your points and can confirm that they are being factored into the programme for the proposed site investigation works and the relevant conversations are underway.

Codling Wind Park Ltd value the importance of early, transparent and ongoing stakeholder engagement. Offshore wind development is a lengthy process that can take up to ten years, from concept to completion of construction. We look forward to continued engagement and to being proactive in the development of a long-term relationship with you.

Regarding the FILA application we would be more than happy to arrange a call with yourself or have a discussion with you over the coming weeks.

1.5 CWPL response to DAU and UAU

Thank you for providing comments on the Codling Wind Park (CWP) Foreshore Investigation Licence Application.

The archaeological mitigation measures detailed in the application report will be implemented.

Codling Wind Park Ltd value the importance of early, transparent and ongoing stakeholder engagement. Offshore wind development is a lengthy process that can take up to ten years, from concept to completion of construction. We look forward to continued engagement and to being proactive in the development of a long-term relationship with you.

1.6 CWPL response to DAFM

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for providing comments on the Codling Wind Park (CWP) Foreshore Investigation Licence Application.

It might be worth noting that the consultation that is currently underway is to undertake surveys as part of a Foreshore Investigation Licence that will inform the design and layout of the project, and feed into the environmental impact assessments that will be required, as opposed to an application to construct and operate an offshore windfarm. The potential impacts of the construction and operational phases of the wind farm will be assessed in a comprehensive EIAR that will be prepared by environmental specialists in consultation with a wider range of stakeholders, including the fishing community, as part of the planning application.

CWP confirm that the subject matter of this licence is for the purposes as outlined in the application and will be for no other purpose. The works will be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars as lodged. The measures set out in Section 5 of the document entitled “Codling Wind Park Foreshore Investigation Licence Application Supplementary Information” dated 24/04/20 will be implemented.

CWP recognises the importance of fisheries engagement and the need for early engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and other marine users. Codling Wind Park Ltd has contracted Fishery Liaisons Ltd (FLL), to facilitate the efforts to engage with fisheries stakeholders, and has appointed [redacted] & [redacted] as CWP Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO). [redacted] & [redacted] are currently engaging with the local fishing community as part of the early consultation on the Foreshore Investigation License Application (FILA). Fishing interests will have an opportunity to discuss the survey plans, and their fishing activity with us in advance of surveys being carried out. Under the CWP Foreshore Investigation Licence, FLL and CWP have been consulting with Sea Fisheries Protection Agency, Marine Institute, Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Southeast Inshore Fisheries Forum, Northeast Inshore Fisheries Forum, National Inshore fisheries association, National Inshore Fisheries Organisation, Irish Naval Service, and producer organisations etc.

Engagement with the various fisheries organisations is taking place during the FILA process, before and during subsequent marine surveys and throughout the project development itself, in order to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and to reduce potential impacts to the fishing industry.

CWP appreciate that there is a need for effective liaison with fisheries organisations. In order to fully understand potential impacts, co-existence opportunities and displacement considerations, and guide appropriate mitigation responses it is important to liaise with the fisheries organisations.

CWP are committed to achieving co-existence; however, it is important to recognise that to achieve this CWP must work closely with the fisheries. Generally, there is no reason why fishing (to include mussel activities) and offshore wind farms cannot co-exist, and fishing continues today in and around many offshore windfarms in many parts of the world. Following construction of the wind farm, no exclusion or safe passage zones are proposed to be implemented above cables or within the development area. During site investigations and construction activities temporary exclusion or safe passage zones surrounding vessels are likely. The best way to ensure fishing can continue around an offshore wind farm is for the developer and local fishers to share information and work together to overcome any obstacles.

Regarding the consent application for the proposed windfarm, there will be extensive community and stakeholder engagement including a dedicated website, community information events, meetings and newsletters. This will be led by a Stakeholder Manager, a Community Liaison Officer and a Fisheries Liaison Officer. This engagement will ensure that stakeholders and the community can provide feedback, discuss any concerns and keep up to date with the project progress. These events will be advertised widely in the local area when planned. All feedback from stakeholders will be considered by Codling Wind Park

With regards to the comment “The environmental analysis of the sediment outfall should be assessed before any licence is granted.” CWPL understand that they cannot take samples without a foreshore investigation licence and therefore, CWPL assume that this refers to the granting of the main application for the wind farm and not to the foreshore investigation licence application. The foreshore investigation licence will allow samples to be taken, these samples will then be analysed, and the findings described in the EIAR.

CWPL acknowledge your concerns relating to decline of mussel stocks and can assure DAFM that CPWL have committed to undertaking a Water Framework Directive assessment as part of the EIAR. This assessment will assess the potential impacts to mussel stocks and through the EIA process CWPL will propose mitigations in order to avoid or reduce these. This will be undertaken with consultations and discussions with the SFPA, Marine Institute and local fishermen.

Ireland has a real opportunity when it comes to offshore wind power. Good wind speeds and favourable foreshore conditions provide an ideal environment for generating green electricity offshore. Offshore wind costs have fallen by over fifty per cent in recent years making it viable to produce and supply renewable offshore energy at a competitive price.

Codling Wind Park will deliver many benefits, including:

Environmental

- Clean electricity to supply hundreds of thousands of homes in Ireland
- Removing at least one million tonnes of harmful carbon emissions annually

- Reducing the reliance on imported fossil fuels and providing a secure, low carbon, indigenous electricity supply

Economic

- Offshore wind energy will be a key enabler to unlock new infrastructure investment in Ireland's ports and maritime economy
- Over €1bn investment delivering approximately €250m into the regional and national economy Note: figures to be refined based on final design.
- Hundreds of full-time jobs during construction
- Full-time local jobs for at least a minimum of 25 years
- Operation and maintenance headquarters to be based locally.
- Help create a domestic supply chain that will be vital to Ireland's future offshore renewable energy industry

Social

- A community benefit fund will be established in line with the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme requirements
- Reduced emissions and a cleaner environment for all.

Codling Wind Park Ltd value the importance of early, transparent and ongoing stakeholder engagement. Offshore wind development is a lengthy process that can take up to ten years, from concept to completion of construction. We look forward to getting to know you and to being proactive in the development of a long-term relationship with you.