

# DOGGER BANK D WIND FARM

## Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 2

Appendix 14.1 Consultation Responses for  
Commercial Fisheries

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APPENDIX 14.1 CONSULTATION RESPONSES FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

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## Table of Contents

14.1 Consultation Responses for Commercial Fisheries.....	4
References.....	10
Acronyms.....	11

## Glossary

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Array Area	The area within which the wind turbines, inter-array cables and Offshore Platform(s) will be located.
Effect	An effect is the consequence of an impact when considered in combination with the receptor's sensitivity/value/importance, defined in terms of significance.
Impact	A change resulting from an activity associated with the Project, defined in terms of magnitude.
Mitigation	Any action or process designed to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset potentially significant adverse effects of a development.
Monitoring	<p>Measures to ensure the systematic and ongoing collection, analysis and evaluation of data related to the implementation and performance of a development. Monitoring can be undertaken to monitor conditions in the future to verify any environmental effects identified by the EIA, the effectiveness of mitigation or enhancement measures or ensure remedial action are taken should adverse effects above a set threshold occur.</p> <p>All monitoring measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.</p>
Scoping Opinion	<p>A written opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State regarding the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the Applicant's Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The Scoping Opinion for the Project was adopted by the Secretary of State on 02 August 2024.</p>
Scoping Report	<p>A request by the Applicant made to the Planning Inspectorate for a Scoping Opinion on behalf of the Secretary of State.</p> <p>The Scoping Report for the Project was submitted to the Secretary of State on 24 June 2024.</p>
Study Area	A geographical area and / or temporal limit defined for each EIA topic to identify sensitive receptors and assess the relevant likely significant effects.
The Applicant	SSE Renewables and Equinor acting through 'Doggerbank Offshore Wind Farm Project 4 Projco Limited'.
The Project	Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm Project, also referred to as DBD in this PEIR.

## 14.1 Consultation Responses for Commercial Fisheries

1. **Volume 1, Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries** for the Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter ‘the Project’ or ‘DBD’) has been informed by consultation with the Planning Inspectorate and stakeholders following the publication of the Scoping Report (DBD, 2024) and the comments contained within the Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2024). This appendix contains details of the relevant comments for Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries and the Applicant’s responses in **Table 14.1-1**.
2. The Applicant previously submitted a Scoping Report in 2023 based on project parameters at that time. The 2024 Scoping Report (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2024) and adopted Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2024) have superseded the 2023 Scoping Report and as such consultation responses on the 2023 Scoping Report are not considered further in this document except where they are included in the 2024 consultee responses and remain relevant to the Project.

Table 14.1-1 Consultation Responses for Commercial Fisheries

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Reduction in access to, or exclusion from established fishing grounds; additional steaming to alternative fishing grounds; and physical presence infrastructure leading to gear snagging (for mobile gear fleets in the Dogger Bank byelaw area) – all phases.</p> <p>On the basis that mobile gear fleets are already prohibited from fishing within the Dogger Bank byelaw area, the Inspectorate agrees that these matters can be scoped out of further assessment.</p>	<p><b>Section 14.4.2 of Volume 1, Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries</b> confirms the scope of the commercial fisheries assessment. Potential impacts associated with the DBD Array Area on mobile gear fleets are scoped out of assessment, in line with the Scoping Opinion.</p>
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Physical presence of infrastructure leading to gear snagging for all other fleets during construction in the Dogger Bank byelaw area.</p> <p>The Inspectorate assumes that this impact is only relevant during the operation and decommissioning phases and subject to this assumption being correct, agrees to scope it out of further assessment.</p>	

APPENDIX 14.1 CONSULTATION RESPONSES FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
The Planning Inspectorate	Scoping Opinion (02/08/24)	<p>Assumptions and limitations:</p> <p>Paragraph 598 states that the datasets used to inform the Scoping Report do not capture all commercial fisheries activity, with Vessel Monitoring System datasets only covering vessels over 12m in length.</p> <p>Paragraph 599 also states that due to the time periods considered, the potential changes in commercial fishing activity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to have been captured in the existing baseline data.</p> <p>The Scoping Report states that other published data sources (Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) publications and surveillance data) and consultations with stakeholders and industry will be used to further inform the baseline.</p> <p>The Environmental Statement (ES) should clearly state the limitations associated with any data used. Efforts should be made to agree the data sources with relevant consultation bodies and outcomes should be evidenced within the ES.</p>	<p>Baseline data limitations of the data sources listed above are fully described in <b>Appendix 14.2 Commercial Fisheries Baseline Technical Report</b>. They are also summarised in <b>Section 14.5.2 of Volume 1, Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries</b>.</p> <p>Assessment limitations are described in <b>Section 14.5.6 of Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries</b>.</p> <p>Engagement with fisheries stakeholders to further validate the commercial fisheries baseline is ongoing at the time of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report preparation.</p>
National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations (NFFO)	Dogger Bank D Wind Farm – Meeting with NFFO (July 2024)	NFFO noted that the Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation (SAC) affects the fishing industry.	The presence of the Dogger Bank SAC and associated fisheries byelaw are acknowledged in the commercial fisheries baseline (see <b>Appendix 14.2 Commercial Fisheries Baseline Technical Report</b> ) and in the Cumulative Effects Assessment presented in <b>Section 14.8 of Volume 1, Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries</b> .

APPENDIX 14.1 CONSULTATION RESPONSES FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
NFFO	Dogger Bank D Wind Farm – Meeting with NFFO (July 2024)	NFFO recommended baseline studies are completed to understand any potential effects that the development will have on the fish and shellfish populations in the area. NFFO advised that developers need to consider monitoring the effects of wind farms specifically on commercial fish species.	The approach to characterising the baseline for fish and shellfish ecology is set out in <b>Section 11.6 of Volume 1, Chapter 11 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> , including the use of publicly available scientific survey datasets (e.g. ICES surveys) and project led site-specific benthic and eDNA surveys. Given that, following mitigation, no significant adverse impacts are found for fish and shellfish ecology no monitoring is proposed specifically for fish and shellfish ecology ( <b>Section 11.11 of Volume 1, Chapter 10 Fish and Shellfish Ecology</b> ).
NFFO	Dogger Bank D Wind Farm – Meeting with NFFO (July 2024)	NFFO highlighted the need to speak to regional fishers.	Engagement with regional fishers is ongoing via a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) appointed by the Applicant.
Rederscentrale	Dogger Bank D Wind Farm – Meeting with Rederscentrale, the Belgian producer organisation and professional association for shipowners in sea fishing (May 2024)	Rederscentrale asked if the Project will consider the fishing grounds within the offshore site selection and about transparency on the scoring system.	Applicant confirmed the Project used a BRAG assessment to consider fishing grounds within the site selection process. Further detail on the site selection process is provided in <b>Volume 1, Chapter 5 Site Selection and Consideration of Alternatives</b> .



APPENDIX 14.1 CONSULTATION RESPONSES FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
<p>NFFO Holderness Fishing Industry Group (HFIG)</p>	<p>Dogger Bank D Wind Farm – Meeting with NFFO and HFIG, noting that HFIG is no longer active (March 2023)</p>	<p>Provision of Project introduction to NFFO and HFIG.</p>	<p>N/A.</p>
<p>NFFO</p>	<p>Dogger Bank D Wind Farm – Meeting with NFFO (February 2025)</p>	<p>Presentation of commercial fisheries EIA baseline and EIA scope.</p> <p>NFFO requested Applicant consider inclusion of The Crown Estate future leasing area in the North Sea in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> <p>NFFO suggested engaging with the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries &amp; Conservation Authority (NE IFCA) to seek access to fisheries surveillance data to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.</p> <p>NFFO welcomed use of marine traffic survey data to inform the commercial fisheries baseline.</p> <p>NFFO noted it would be beneficial for the Applicant to contact regional Marine Management Organisation (MMO) offices to raise the project at their respective regional fisheries groups.</p> <p>NFFO noted the planned launch by Cefas of the Fisheries Sensitivity Mapping and Displacement Modelling (FiSMaDiM) project which includes fisheries sensitivity mapping and displacement modelling; this may usefully inform commercial fisheries EIA.</p>	<p>In September 2024 The Crown Estate (TCE) identified a potential future seabed leasing area in the North Sea to the north of Dogger Bank. This area was demarcated for potential leasing by 2030 and in operation from 2035 to 2040 (TCE, 2024). As yet this area has not been brought forward by TCE as part of any new seabed leasing round and does not constitute any firm basis for future cumulative effects consideration. However the Applicant will monitor the situation and if TCE formalise this area (or similar) in any announcement of a new seabed leasing round before the Project's DCO application is made then formal consideration will take place based on whatever information may be in the public domain (which may be outline in nature).</p> <p>Applicant to seek to source relevant data to inform baseline from NE IFCA and utilise in ES if available.</p> <p>Applicant has made contact with regional MMO offices in Beverley and North Shields.</p>

APPENDIX 14.1 CONSULTATION RESPONSES FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Stakeholder	Document / Meeting, Date	Comment	How and Where Addressed in the PEIR
			Applicant to review and consider use of FiSMaDiM to inform commercial fisheries EIA; utilise in ES if appropriate.
Rederscentrale	Dogger Bank D Wind Farm – Meeting with Rederscentrale (February 2025)	<p>Presentation of commercial fisheries EIA baseline and EIA scope.</p> <p>Rederscentrale noted that the DBD commercial fisheries study area is not heavily targeted by the Belgian fishing fleet, but that this may change in time with potential for an increase in Belgian activity.</p> <p>Rederscentrale advised that up-to-date Belgian fleet landings and spatial activity data be requested from additional data sources (Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO) and the Flemish Agency).</p>	<p>Belgian fishing activity is described within <b>Appendix 14.2 Commercial Fisheries Baseline Technical Report</b>.</p> <p>Potential impacts on the Belgian fleet are considered within <b>Volume 1, Chapter 14 Commercial Fisheries</b>.</p> <p>Applicant to seek to source more recent Belgian fleet data and utilise in ES if available.</p>

## References

Planning Inspectorate (2023). Scoping Opinion: Proposed Dogger Bank D Wind Farm. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010144/EN010144-000018-EN010144%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>

Planning Inspectorate (2024a). Scoping Opinion: Proposed Dogger Bank D Wind Farm. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010144/EN010144-000071-EN010144%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>

Royal HaskoningDHV (2023). EIA Scoping Report. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010144/EN010144-000011-EN010144%20-%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>

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The Crown Estate (2024). Future of Offshore Wind - Considerations for development and leasing to 2030 and beyond. Available at: <https://www.datocms-assets.com/1742378325-future-offshore-wind-2024.pdf>

## Acronyms

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
DBD	Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
FiSMaDiM	Fisheries Sensitivity Mapping and Displacement Modelling
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
HFIG	Holderness Fishing Industry Group
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
ILVO	Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NE IFCA	North Eastern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
NFFO	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
SAC	Special Area of Conservation