

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Q1. What are your views on the overall costs and savings identified in the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessments?

Scottish Renewables welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation on Registerable Marine Activities and on Marine Licence Applications Requiring Pre-Application Consultation. We believe that this will contribute to creating a more proportionate, streamlined and overall efficient marine licensing system.

Q2. Do you agree with the registration process as described?

Scottish renewables have some concerns with the proposed registration process. It is important to state a clear definition of environmental impact given that proposed registerable activities are deemed to have a negligible impact on the environment. With this in mind, the requirement to state the location of nearby Natura sites appears to be contrary to the definition of a registerable activity. While we appreciate that there may be some concern around multiple activities having a cumulative impact on Natura sites, we believe that this would be better monitored by collecting all the information centrally rather than relying on those registering their activities to have an understanding and awareness of all potential Natura sites on which they could have an impact.

Furthermore, it would be useful to provide some clearer guidance around timelines. Scottish Renewables understand that some of the activities proposed will require immediate action (such as the removal of deceased marine mammals or human remains) and as such it could be that an option to register an activity in retrospect will be required to avoid delays.

Q3. If not, what changes would you propose to the process?

Scottish Renewables would encourage Marine Scotland to remove the requirement to state the location of any nearby Natura sites. While we understand the importance of monitoring activity around these sites, it seems contrary to the definition of registerable marine activities which are deemed to have a negligible environmental impact. In order to monitor this impact Scottish Renewables believe that it would be beneficial for Marine Scotland to keep the information around 'type of activity' 'location and brief description of project' and 'timing of project' which can then be cross referenced with existing data gathered on Natura sites.

Q4. Do you agree that the listed activities should be registerable, rather than licensable?

Yes No

Q5. Do you have further comments regarding the activities listed above?

Scottish renewables welcome the proposal to include these activities within the category of 'registerable marine activities'. However, we would encourage Marine Scotland to give further detail around 'the removal of human remains from the foreshore' which not only relates to criminal activity but also to cultural heritage.

Q6. Are there any other classes of activity that should be registerable?

Comments

Q7. Do agree that statutory consultees should not be specified in legislation for the pre-application consultation process?

Yes No

Q8. If not, which persons or bodies do you believe should be specified as statutory consultees for the pre-application consultation process?

While Scottish Renewables support the proposal that statutory consultees should not be specified in legislation, we believe that it is important that the consultation process is managed to allow all relevant stakeholders to take part.

A number of Scottish Renewables members already engage in a pre-application consultation process as a matter of good practice, and as such we would recommend that this process begins up to 6 months prior to the application submission in order to provide the right stakeholders with appropriate information at the right time.

Similarly, it is important to ensure that any consultation taking place for on shore aspects of any project do not cause confusion.

Q9. Do you agree with the classes of activity that will be subject to pre-application consultation?

Yes No

Q10. If not, what activities would you add or remove from the list?

We would welcome further information around the threshold of 30MW for renewable energy projects, while this is likely to capture most offshore wind projects it is unlikely to cover wave and tidal developments prior to commercial scale array development.

Q11. Do you believe that the above proposals discriminate disproportionately between persons defined by age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, race and religion and belief?

Yes No

Q12. If you answered yes to Question 11, in what way do you believe the proposals to be discriminatory?

Comments