

Marine Scotland Science advice on freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries in relation to onshore wind farm developments.

November 2022

Annex 1

MSS – EIA Checklist

The generic scoping guidelines should ensure that all matters relevant to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries have been addressed and presented in the appropriate chapters of the EIA Report. Use of the checklist below should ensure that the EIA Report contains the following information; the absence of such information *may necessitate requesting additional information* which could delay the process:

MSS Standard EIA Report Requirements	Provided in application YES/NO	If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of EIA Report	If not provided or not what MSS has asked for, please set out justification.	ECU/MSS use
<p>1. A map outlining the proposed development area and the proposed location of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the turbines, ○ associated crane hard standing areas, ○ borrow pits, ○ permanent meteorological masts, ○ access tracks including watercourse crossings, ○ all buildings including substation, battery storage; 	YES	Chapter 3: Proposed Development		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ permanent and temporary construction compounds; ○ all watercourses; and ○ contour lines; 				
<p>2. A description and results of the site characterisation surveys for fish (including fully quantitative electrofishing surveys) and water quality including the location of the electrofishing and fish habitat survey sites and water quality sampling sites on the map outlining the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure.</p>	Yes	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology & Biodiversity describes the fish surveys. No water quality sampling has been done to date, but baseline information on water quality is provided in Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils</p>		
<p>3. An outline of the potential impacts on fish populations and water quality within and downstream of the proposed development area.</p>	Yes	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology & Biodiversity.</p>		
<p>4. Any potential cumulative impacts on the water quality and fish populations associated with adjacent (operational and consented) developments including wind farms, hydro schemes, aquaculture and mining.</p>	Yes	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology & Biodiversity.</p>		
<p>5. Any proposed site specific mitigation measures as outlined in MSS generic scoping guidelines and the joint publication “Good Practice</p>	Yes	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology & Biodiversity.</p>		

<p>during Wind Farm Construction” (https://www.nature.scot/guidance-good-practice-during-wind-farm-construction).</p>				
<p>6. Full details of proposed monitoring programmes using guidelines issued by MSS and accompanied by a map outlining the proposed sampling and control sites in addition to the location of all turbines and associated infrastructure (see wording suggested by MSS for planning conditions).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology & Biodiversity. Suggested monitoring is included in Technical Appendix 8.3: Aquatic Ecology Report – Turbine Area and Technical Appendix 8.4: Aquatic Ecology Report – Access Track and there is a commitment for a detail plan to be developed in consultation with MSS (and other relevant consultees) prior to pre-construction surveys commencing.</p>		
<p>7. A decommissioning and restoration plan outlining proposed mitigation/monitoring for water quality and fish populations.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Ecology & Biodiversity. Suggested monitoring is included in Technical Appendix 8.3: Aquatic Ecology Report – Turbine Area and Technical Appendix 8.4: Aquatic Ecology Report – Access Track and there is a commitment for a detailed mitigation plan to</p>		

		be developed in consultation with MSS (and other relevant consultees) prior to pre-construction surveys commencing.		
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Developers should specifically discuss and assess potential impacts and appropriate mitigation measures associated with the following:	Provided in application YES/NO	If YES – please signpost to relevant chapter of EIA Report	If not provided or provided different to MSS advice, please set out reasons.	ECU/MSS use
8. Any designated area (i.e. SAC), for which fish is a qualifying feature, within and/or downstream of the proposed development area.	No			
9. The presence of a large density of watercourses.	Yes	Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils		
10. The presence of large areas of deep peat deposits.	Yes	Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils. Impacts on areas of deep peat deposits has been minimised by design. A Peat Management Plan will be submitted in support of the EIA Report		

		(Technical Appendix 10.2).		
11. Known acidification problems and/or other existing pressures on fish populations in the area.	No			
12. Proposed felling operations.	Yes	Technical Appendix 14.1 Forestry.		