An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport

Marine Notice No. 06 of 2023

Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers, Yachtsmen and Seafarers

South Irish Sea Offshore Wind Farms – deployment of marine acoustic devices off the coasts of County Wexford

1. Notice of Activity

The Department of Transport has been advised that Energia intend to deploy marine acoustic monitoring equipment between the dates **26 January 2023** and **24 February 2023** subject to weather and operational constraints. The equipment will remain on site for a period of 3-4 months, weather window permitting, at the locations detailed below After this period the equipment will be retrieved and redeployed at new locations (a new marine notice will be issued), that will continue to cover a 12-month period. The equipment will consist of 4 acoustic devices and their moorings, which will be used to monitor for marine mammal activity in the Wind Park area.

2. Location of Activity

The operations will take place at the locations indicated below. Further information on the locations is available in the maps at Appendix 1.

The South Irish Sea (See Appendix 1)

The South Irish Sea, which is an offshore renewable energy project proposed to be located a minimum of 10km and up to 25km off the coasts of Wexford and south Wicklow.

Location	Latitude	Longitude	Depth [m]
1	52° 25.96635'N	006° 0.881282'W	56
2	52° 28.47552'N	006° 2.347995'W	49
3	52° 23.89536'N	006° 4.83738'W	52
4	52° 34.62594'N	006° 1.31494'W	50

The acoustic device will be secured to the mooring via an acoustic release. The mooring consists of an anchor attached to approximately 5m of 48mm chain. At the end of the chain an acoustic release is attached to a benthos ring. The acoustic device and a benthos buoy are attached to the acoustic release and will float approximately 2-3m above the seabed after deployment. On release the acoustic device floats to the surface which is recovered with a grapple line from the vessel and brought inboard.
All instruments and moorings will be recovered at end of monitoring period.

3. Details of the Survey Vessel

The work will be conducted by the **MV Sharp Shooter**. (Call sign: **EI5069**) As the vessel will be deploying survey equipment the vessel will be restricted in its ability to manoeuvre. All vessels are requested to leave a wide berth during the operations and pass at minimum speed to reduce vessel wash. The vessel will be monitoring VHF Ch 16 and working on VHF Ch 6. All operations will be during the hours of daylight only. Throughout survey operations, the vessels will be displaying the appropriate lights and shapes.

4. Contact Details

Enquiries regarding the contents of this Marine Notice, or any other matters, should be directed to

The Offshore EIA Project Manager for North Celtic Sea,
Daniel Lazell,
Email: Daniel.Lazell@energia.ie
Mobile: 087 1882294

For enquiries related to fishing, please contact,

The dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer for North Celtic Sea
Mark O Reilly- Mobile: 0851399000
Email: mark@fishery-liaisons.com

All mariners are reminded of their responsibilities under the **International Collision Regulations** and of Marine Notice No. 17 of 2007, which gives general advice in relation to the activities of vessels engaged in survey work for hydrographic, seismic, fishing research and underwater operations.

The International Regulations for Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) are implemented in Irish law by the *Merchant Shipping* (*Collision Regulations) (Ships and Water Craft on the Water) Order 2012* [S.I. No. 507 of 2012] and the *Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012* [S.I. No.170 of 2012]. See Marine Notice No. 06 of 2013. These Statutory Instruments may be purchased by mail order from Government Publications, Office of Public Works, 52 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel: (01) 6476834/1890-213434. They are also available online at: www.irishstatutebook.ie

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

26/01/2023

Encl: Appendix 1. South Irish Sea Area

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport

Appendix 2. South Irish Sea Area

