



Marine Notice No. 35 of 2024

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

Arklow Bank Geophysical Survey – Including Uncrewed Vessels

1. Notice of Activity

The Department of Transport has been advised that geophysical surveys will be undertaken in the Irish Sea (off the Wicklow and Wexford coast) to provide site investigation information to facilitate the development of the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project. The survey campaign will involve the use of non-intrusive Seismic, Multibeam Echosounder, Side-scan Sonar, Sub-Bottom Profiler and Magnetometer surveys to acquire data. The survey work is anticipated to run from **26 June 2024** to **30 September 2024**, subject to weather and operational constraints.

2. Location of Activity

The survey campaign will be confined to the proposed Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Foreshore Licence area and focused on the offshore export cable routes from landfall and the array area. The Arklow Bank area is located approximately 3nm to 7nm off the coast of counties Wicklow and Wexford and consists of a north-south trending sandbank around 12nm in length and sub-parallel to the coastline between Ardmore point and Kilmichael point. The geophysical survey area is provided in the table below and within the area shown in the map in Appendix 1 at the end of this notice.

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	52° 40.257' N	005° 57.609' W
2	52° 40.505' N	006° 0.156' W
3	52° 41.503' N	006° 1.0' W
4	52° 46.756' N	006° 3.967' W
5	52° 47.171' N	006° 8.671' W
6	52° 50.009' N	006° 6.598' W
7	52° 50.379' N	006° 4.565' W
8	52° 53.27' N	006° 0.083' W

9	52° 53.363' N	006° 0.246' W
10	52° 55.688' N	005° 55.986' W
11	52° 55.445' N	005° 53.895' W
12	52° 54.915' N	005° 53.411' W
13	52° 53.695' N	005° 53.725' W
14	52° 51.545' N	005° 54.326' W
15	52° 49.325' N	005° 54.945' W

3. Details of the Survey Vessels

The operations will be conducted by the following vessels:

- “**Roman Rebel**” (call sign **2ICA5**)
- “**Lady Kathleen**” (call sign **EIXT2**) and
- **4 XOCEAN USVs** (Uncrewed Surface Vessels) as follows:

USV	Call Sign
X17	MKMB4
X22	MMIM7
X09	MHIJ8
X21	MLUL2

As the survey vessels will be restricted in their ability to manoeuvre when surveying, due to the deployment of the towed survey equipment from the vessels for the duration of the survey activities, all vessels operating within this area are requested to keep their distance and pass at minimum speed to reduce vessel wash.

The work will be conducted during 24 hr operations on board the “**Roman Rebel**” and XOCEAN USVs and 12 hr operations on board the “**Lady Kathleen**”. Mariners are advised to keep continuous watch on **VHF radio channel 16** when navigating the area. The vessels will display appropriate lights and signals.

4. Contact Details

A Fisheries Liaison Officer will be available to discuss operations in advance and throughout the duration of the survey campaign. Enquiries regarding the contents of this Marine Notice, or any other relevant matters, should be directed to SSE Renewables:

- Brendan Dillon
Email: brendan.dillon@sse.com
Ph: +353 (0) 87 2493817

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, Mountshannon Road, Dublin, D08 XA06 Tel: (046) 9423100. 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.

17/06/2024

Encl: Appendix: Map of Arklow Bank Survey 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: Map of Arklow Bank Survey Area

