Ref: FS007383 Oriel Windfarm Ltd. - Site Investigations for proposed Oriel offshore wind farm, off Dundalk.

Public Submissions.

1. Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG).
2. National Inshore Fishermen's Association (NIFA) and
   National Inshore Fishermen's Organisation (NIFO).

From: [redacted] <[redacted]iwdg.ie>
Sent: Sunday 23 January 2022 01:08
To: Housing Foreshore
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Oriel Wind farm FS0007383
Attachments: IWDG FS007383 Oriel Wind farm.pdf

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Dear Sir or Madam

Please find attached review of the Oriel Windfarm foreshore application FS007383.

Yours sincerely

[redacted] - IWDG

IWDG

Irish Whale and Dolphin Group

Marine Planning and Foreshore Section,
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government,
Newtown Road,
Wexford, Co. Wexford
Email: foreshoreore@housing.gov.ie

17th January 2022

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Foreshore licence application FS007383 Oriel Wind Farm

The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) was established in December 1990 and is an All-Ireland group *"dedicated to the conservation and better understanding of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) in Irish waters through study, education and interpretation".* While the IWDG is primarily concerned with cetaceans we have broadened our comments to include **all marine mammals**.

IWDG welcomes the opportunity to comment on this foreshore licence.

We would like to make the following points regarding the above foreshore application:

1. Page 9 UHRS does not consider the use of airguns with lower frequency output. Furthermore the parameters given for boomers and sparkers do not cover the Applied Acoustics Squid 500/2000 and the Applied Acoustics S-Boom with a source level of 222dB. Nor does it cover the Huntec boomer with frequencies of 0.5 to 8 kHz. The exact impact of higher frequency sources remains largely unknown.

2. Page 9 USBL. Most Kongsberg systems use frequencies between 21 and 31 kHz (see https://www.kongsberg.com/maritime/products/Acoustics-Positioning-and-Communication/acoustic-positioning-systems/hipap-models/). The Sonardyne Wideband Sub-Mini 6 Plus (WSM6+) and Sonardyne Type 8300 Compatt 6 operate and from 19 to 34 kHz (see https://www.sonardyne.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Sonardyne_8370_WSM6-1.pdf and https://www.str-subsea.com/uploads/Sonardyne-8300-3111-Compatt-6.pdf). Therefore the stated frequencies of typical frequencies of 20 to 40 kHz should reflect the real numbers and the examples given of 19 to 34 kHz.

The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group is dedicated to the conservation and better understanding of cetaceans (Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises) in Irish waters through study, education and interpretation.

Irish Whale and Dolphin Group Ltd.,
Merchant's Quay, Kilrush, Co. Clare, V15 E762, Ireland
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Registered Charity No.: CHY11163 : Limited Company No. 332093

3. Page 18. Suggests that disturbance of from HRGS (High Resolution Geophysical Surveys) would be limited to a few hundred metres from source for marine mammals. This is not what is suggested by a review document published by the JNCC (2020) which suggests a zone of disturbance of 5km. hict is

4. Page 35 Table 4.4. USBL source level should be considered to have a maximum source level of 206 dB re 1µPa@1m and not 200dB. See page 53 Kongsberg (2016) Product Description. Boomer or sparker comments as for page 9. Multi-beam systems lower then 70 kHz should not be allowed on surveys as these use higher source levels and may need appropriate review before used.

5. Page 38 Table 4.3. Low Frequency baleen whales (Southall et al, 2019) should be included in consideration of functional hearing groups as minke or humpback whales may be present in the site area.

6. The document does not mention mitigation measures that will be employed during geophysical and geotechnical surveys. This is not compliant with requirements by the NPWS and DAHG (2014) guidelines.

As the assessment does not mention any mitigation measures that will be applied it should not proceed currently. The assessment should recognize the requirement for mitigation measures in the surveys suggested and must be included in the assessment.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
IWDG

References

DAHG (Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) (2014). Guidance to Manage the Risk to Marine Mammals from Man-made Sound Sources in Irish Waters.

The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group is dedicated to the conservation and better understanding of cetaceans (Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises) in Irish waters through study, education and interpretation.

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JNCC (2020) Guidance for assessing the significance of noise disturbance against Conservation Objectives of harbour porpoise SACs. JNCC, Natural England and DAERA [online] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889842/SACNoiseGuidanceJune2020.pdf (accessed 07/01/2022)

Konsberg (2016) HiPAP High Precision Acoustic Positioning, Product Description. [online] https://www.kongsberg.com/globalassets/maritime/km-products/product-documents/hipap-502_452_352_102 (accessed 07/01/2022).

Southall B.L., Finneran J., Reichmuth C., Nachtigall P.E., Ketten D.R., Miller J.H., Bowles A. E., Ellison W.T., Nowacek D.P., Tyack P.L., 2019. "Marine Mammal Noise Exposure Criteria: Updated Scientific Recommendations for Residual Hearing Effects." Aquatic Mammals 45(2): 125-232.

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From: NIFA [redacted] <nifa.[redacted]@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday 26 January 2022 20:34

To: Housing ForeShoreORE

Subject: FS007383 Oriel Wind Farm S.I.

Attachments: NIFANIFO response FS007383.pdf

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To Whom it concerns,

Please find attached a submission to the public consultation on the foreshore license application referenced in the subject line of this email

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Regards ,

[redacted]

[redacted] NIFA CLG

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NIFA

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The Pier,
Cahirciveen,
Co. Kerry,

25/01/22

To whom it may concern,

With reference to planning application reference number FS007383, by Oriel Windfarm Limited, Digital Office Centre, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin, K67 E5A0, The National Inshore Fishermen's Association (NIFA) and the National Inshore Fishermen's Organisation (NIFO) wish to make the following joint submission.

Members inform of very limited or no pre application consultation, and as Organisations we only discovered detail of it having searched through the various consultations on the Gov .ie website. This coupled with the timing of the consultation, over the Christmas period, a time where inshore fishers typically take some time off, has made it difficult to put a considered response together or gauge the potential impact this project will have on members. Members that have raised, what we feel are valid concerns regarding this application. This submission is based on the same, the main points being as follows

Importance of area to Inshore Fishing Activity

The area in question is important in general to Inshore Commercial fishing, Primarily using towed great mostly demersal trawling for prawns but also scallop dredging. For some of our members the area in question accounts for a significant amount of their economic activity . Their activity there is well established and traditional .

Members concerned operate small vessels, typically between seven and twelve meters in length, given the size of these vessels and the nature of fishing activity in the broader general area, operating elsewhere, to where the traditionally have done, is not realistically a viable option for them, even on short term basis.

Likely short term disruption of activity and economic impact caused by the same

While we appreciate this application is for site investigation works, our members are concerned that these works will disrupt their fishing operations and this disruption will have a negative economic impact on them. The extent of that disturbance is still unknown and will likely vary between members. Given the density of fishing activity, both in this specific and adjacent areas and the nature of the survey work, disruption is highly likely, and may involve static gear operators having to move gear, to avoid damage or loss to it, in advance of the survey. Previous experience with similar applications has proved this to be the case.

Our position is than any disruption should be kept to an absolute minimum. Given that avoiding this disruption completely is highly unlikely and given the principles of "avoid, minimise or mitigate" detailed in the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF), we ask that consent to proceed be withheld until a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) agreed with our relevant members. This FMMS needs to be designed to keep displacement of activity to an absolute minimum , but where displacement occurs and in turn has a negative impact on members working outside of the area, the FMMS and agreement needs to take these members into account also.

Medium to long term economic impact.

Again acknowledging that the application is for site investigation works, members have concerns that these works will have a negative effect that will be longer lasting than the juration of works. These concerns are based on previous experience for similar site investigation works off the East Coast. The above mentioned FMMS needs to take these concerns into account also.

In particular they are concerned about the effects of using a sub bottom acoustic profiler, in water as shallow as this will have on the shellfish population. In general the opinion of the Fishing industry is that offshore seismic survey work has a negative effect on catch rates for some time after a survey has been carried out in an area. While we acknowledge the intensity of the proposed acoustic work is far lower than that used for offshore oil and gas exploration, members are concerned that the fact that the water is much shallower in this area will mitigate against this. For members concerned, Shellfish fisheries are the most important fishery to them. Any negative effect on the shellfish stocks that support these fisheries in the short, medium or long term, could be economically detrimental to them.

Again acknowledging that this application is only for site investigation work members are concerned with the unknown long term effects such developments may have particularly given the amount of interest in ORE development in the general area and the cumulative effects these potential developments will have combined.

Finally to conclude, we would like to thank DHLGH for the opportunity to make this submission and we trust our concerns will be given the consideration they deserve.