North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Limited,

Building 4200,
Cork Airport Business Park,
Co. Cork

26 May 2022

[redacted]
Foreshore Section,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Newtown Road,
Wexford.

Dear [redacted]

RE: FS007358 – FORESHORE LICENCE APPLICATION BY NORTH IRISH SEA ARRAY WINDFARM LIMITED., SITE INVESTIGATION

North Irish Sea Array Windfarm Limited (NISA Ltd.) would like to thank the those who submitted observations under the consultation process under SI 293 of 2021.

The following table summarises the list of the submissions received under the consultation process under SI 293 of 2021.

Ref	Submission
1	Balbriggan Climate Club
2	Public Submission (Fishing Industry)
3	Public Submission (Fishing Industry)
4	Public Submission (Fishing Industry)

Submission and Responses

Public Body	Comments	Response
Balbriggan Climate Club	I am writing to you to make a submission on FS007358 NISA Cable-Consultation on Screening for AA Determination on behalf of the Balbriggan Climate Club. While we support the development of renewable energy and a swift transition away from fossil fuels, we want to ensure that biodiversity conservation and restoration are at the heart of climate action. The NISA is one of seven arrays planned for the Irish Sea and every effort must be made to avoid cumulative negative effects on marine and bird life. The three cable landfall areas under investigation are close to seven Fingal SPAs and we are particularly concerned by the proximity of the central area to Rockabill SPA. We note as part of the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment measures, that 'Geotechnical and benthic sampling works will be avoided within the Roseate Tern breeding (nesting) season'. Does this mean that works will be avoided between April and October, when Roseate Terns typically visit Rockabill? Has Birdwatch Ireland been contacted to get more specific information on the Roseate Tern nesting period? More specific information is needed in our view given the impacts of climate change on migratory birds.	This application is for a licence to undertake site investigations only. The development of the wind farm itself including any cumulative or in-combination effects when considered with other plans and projects (including other wind farms) will be subject to the rigours of new consenting regime for offshore wind being implemented pursuant to the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAP). An application for planning permission will be submitted under MAP in due course and that application will be accompanied by a full suite of application documentation including an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement. With respect to this application NISA Ltd included a screening and subsequent assessment (where deemed appropriate) for in-combination effects on the receiving environment. All effects of the proposed surveys themselves were deemed to be localised (immediate vicinity of the surveys) and/or temporary (during the survey duration). Possible in-combination effects with a limited number of other projects on marine mammals due to geophysical surveys (dependent on survey parameters) were identified in NISA Ltd included as a proposed mitigation measure a commitment to engage with other licence holders should in-combination effects be a possibility with a view to ensuring that effects are minimised. In relation to the Roseate Terns NISA Ltd adopted an extremely conservative view in relation to indirect effects on the conservation objectives of the Roseate Tern within the Rockabill SPA and considers that the greatest possibility of significant effects to the Roseate Tern would be during nesting (until chicks are fledged) when the terns forage much closer to the island. Roseate Terns from Rockabill SPA are known to join the tern colony on Dalkey Island after fledging occurs in July (https://www.dlrcoco.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/dalkeyternleaflet.pdf).

Public Submission (Fishing Industry) Submitted: 21/04/2021	Hi, I am fishermen living in Loughshinny and would like to know the intended route of your cable do you have a map of the route I have a couple of hundred whelk pots in the area of Loughshinny there was another cable layed here recently and we had to remove our pots it was very last minute and became difficult so it would be better for everyone if we were better prepared I am fishing most days weather permitted so it would be difficult for me to attend any consultation you might have could you possibly send me any information you might	NISA Ltd thanks you for your submission. Through our engagement with fisheries NISA Ltd is aiming to develop a long-term working relationship with the fishing community. NISA Ltd highlights this application is only for survey works and will not include the installation of any cable. The cable route and landfall point is yet to be determined. NISA Ltd welcomes the opportunity to engage with local fishers, both through representative bodies and directly with the fishing community. Unfortunately the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Foreshore Unit has not provided your contact details to NISA Ltd, however should you wish to engage directly with NISA we are more than happy to communicate with you in a manner that is convenient to your circumstances. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly on enquiries@northirishseaarray.ie Mark O' Reilly of Fisheries Liaison Limited has been appointed as Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) for the project and have been actively engaging with the fishing community and fisheries groups since late 2019. The fundamental ethos of this communication process is to establish positive and proactive engagement with the fishing industry. As part of this process, engagement will be held with the SFPA, relevant fishermen's groups and the local fishing industry in relation to the SI works. Indicative timelines will be provided well in advance of any works being carried out with confirmation of activities proposed being shared once the information is available. NISA Ltd intends to only survey a very small channel (c. 1km) nearer the coast on the approach to the landfall location. Towards the array site NISA Ltd may survey a wider area. Through the collaborative engagement proposed, the aim will be to avoid or minimise any interactions with ongoing fishing activities in the area.
Public Submission (Fishing Industry) Submitted: 22/04/2022	To who it may concern this area is where I fish and it may affect my fishing operations.	NISA Ltd thanks you for your submission. Through our engagement with fisheries NISA Ltd is aiming to develop a long-term working relationship with the fishing community. Unfortunately the Department of Housing, Local Government and

	In the event that it's not possible to avoid this negative impact then I ask consent be withheld for the proposed activity until a disturbance mitigation plan is agreed between myself and the applicant.	Heritage, Foreshore Unit has not provided your contact details to NISA Ltd, however should you wish to engage directly with NISA we are more than happy to communicate with you in a manner that is convenient to your circumstances. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly on enquiries@northirishseaarray.ie Mark O' Reilly of Fisheries Liaison Limited has been appointed as Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) for the project and has been actively engaging with the fishing community and fisheries groups since late 2019. The fundamental ethos of this communication process is to establish positive and proactive engagement with the fishing industry. As part of this process, engagement will be held with the SFPA, relevant fishermen's groups and the local fishing industry in relation to the SI works. Indicative timelines will be provided well in advance of any works being carried out with confirmation of activities proposed being shared once the information is available. NISA Ltd intends to only survey a very small channel (c. 1km) nearer the coast on the approach to the landfall location. Towards the array site NISA Ltd may survey a wider area. Through the collaborative engagement proposed, the aim will be to avoid or minimise any interactions with ongoing fishing activities in the area.
Public Submission (Fishing Industry) Submitted: 23/04/2022	I am concerned that this will affect my ability to earn a living in this area. I own XXX fishing boat that fishes from howth and Rush and Loughshinny	NISA Ltd thanks you for your submission. Through our engagement with fisheries NISA Ltd is aiming to develop a long-term working relationship with the fishing community. Mark O' Reilly of Fisheries Liaison Limited has been appointed as Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) for the project and has been actively engaging with the fishing community and fisheries groups since late 2019. The fundamental ethos of this communication process is to establish positive and proactive engagement with the fishing industry. As part of this process, engagement will be held with the SFPA, relevant fishermen's groups and the local fishing industry in relation to the SI works. Indicative timelines will be provided

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Yours sincerely,

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On behalf of Statkraft Ireland