

Our ref: SC2106

02/07/2021

Dear Consultee,

MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2007 (AS AMENDED)

REQUEST FOR SCREENING OPINION – Deepdock Ltd. Shellfish Farm

The Natural Resources Wales Permitting Service (NRW PS) has received a request for a screening opinion from Deepdock Ltd. to ascertain whether the above proposal, will require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the submission of an Environmental Statement.

I have attached a copy of the screening request and supporting information as required by Schedule 2, Paragraph 1 of the above Regulations for your review.

Procedure for reaching screening opinion

In accordance with Schedule 2, Paragraph 4 of the above Regulations, the NRW PS, on behalf of the Welsh Ministers, is consulting with each organisation that we believe may have an interest in the proposal, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, in order to inform the Welsh Ministers' screening opinion.

For your information, an EIA is required in relation to certain activities carried out in the course of projects listed in Schedule A1 and A2 of the above Regulations. Schedule A1 projects will always require an EIA, whereas Schedule A2 projects will only require an EIA if the project is likely to have significant effects on the environment due to its size, nature or location.

Shellfish aquaculture is an exempted activity under Article 13 of the Marine Licensing Exempted Activities Order unless there is a possible obstruction or danger to navigation. In this case due to its size and location there could be an obstruction to navigation so the project proposed will require a marine licence.

From our preliminary review of the documents, we consider that the activity may fall under Schedule A2 projects under the category "Aquaculture" of the above regulations.

In order to assess whether EIA is required for this project, the NRW PS must consider the matters relevant to consideration of whether or not a Schedule A2 project is likely to have significant effects on the environment, as outlined in Schedule 1 of the above Regulations.

Request for comments

I would be grateful therefore if you would consider the information attached, and provide a view, with clear reasoning, as to whether this proposal should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, on the basis of the potential for likely significant effects on the environment. These significant effects could be on the basis of the characteristics of the project, location of the project and types of the potential impacts.

It would help us assess the project if you could identify whether the advice provided is relevant to a particular site or the project as a whole. As reference Deepdock Ltd are proposing to undertake the activity in 3 stand alone sites:

- **Site 1:** Puffin East (384 ha)
- **Site 2:** Offshore Spoil (480ha)
- **Site 3:** South West flank of Gwynt Y Mor Windfarm (127ha)

It would also be helpful if you could give your view as to whether the proposed works are likely to have a significant effect (either alone or in combination with any other plans or projects) on a European site(s) or European Protected Species, and therefore whether an Appropriate Assessment is required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

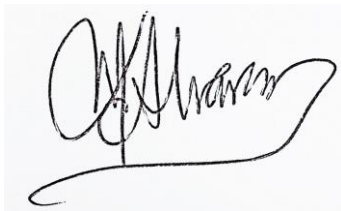
A response to this consultation is required within **28 days** from the date of this letter, this being **30/07/2021**. If I do not hear from you by this date I shall assume you have no comments to make on this screening request. However, please note you will be consulted on any formal application that may follow.

You will be provided with a copy of our Screening Decision once issued.

Should you have any queries regarding this screening request please do not hesitate to contact Marine Licensing Team (marinelicensing@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) quoting reference: **SC2106**

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Alvarez', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maria Alvarez
Marine Licensing Team
Natural Resources Wales