Salamander Offshore Wind Farm

Volume ER.A.6, Plan P.3 Outline Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS)

SALAMANDER

Powered by Ørsted and
Simply Blue Group

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Acronyms

Term	Definition
FMMS	Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
SWPC Ltd	Salamander Wind Project Company Ltd
MD-LOT	Marine Directorate Licensing and Operations Team
MW	Megawatt
NSP	Navigational Safety Plan
NtM	Notice to Mariners
NSVP	Navigational Safety and Vessel Management Plan
OFLO	Offshore Fisheries Liaison Plan
VMP	Vessel Management Plan
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 This Outline Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) for the Salamander Floating Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as 'the Salamander Project') has been produced along with the Offshore Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and presents approach to fisheries liaison and mitigation for the Salamander Project, before the production of a final FMMS after consent has been granted.

1.2 Project Background

1.2.1.1 The Salamander Project is being developed by Salamander Wind Project Company Ltd. (SWPC) (the 'Developer'), a joint venture between Ørsted, Simply Blue and Subsea7. The Salamander Project is applying for a Section 36 Consent and associated Marine Licence(s) for a floating offshore wind farm project with a capacity of up to 100 megawatts (MW).

1.2.1.2 The Salamander Project is located approximately 35 km east of Peterhead (**Figure 1-1**) and shall comprise of up to seven wind turbine generators (WTGs), associated floating foundations and moorings, subsea hubs and cabling. The export cabling will run from the Offshore Array Area to the Landfall (approximately 2.5 km north of Peterhead) where the marine export cable will be joined to the terrestrial export cable, connecting to the onshore substation and onwards to the electrical transmission network.

1.2.1.3 This Outline FMMS considers the offshore elements of the Salamander Project (the Offshore Development) which are described in detail in **Volume ER.A.2, Chapter 4: Project Description**. The Offshore Development includes the Offshore Array Area and the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (ECC) up to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS).

1.2.1.4 The Offshore Array Area reflects the Exclusivity Agreement Area awarded to SWPC through the Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG) Leasing Round. During the site selection process the area considered for the Offshore Array Area was refined to avoid high intensity fishing areas as requested by the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) and Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA), thereby avoiding key grounds for mobile gear and promoting co-existence between the two industries in the marine space.

1.2.1.5 This section is to be updated post-consent with final details of the Offshore Development. As per the draft FMMS guidance (Marine Scotland, 2020), a description of the Offshore Development will be included in the final FMMS, including aspects related to cable burial and protection.

1.3 Purpose of the Outline FMMS

1.3.1.1 This Outline FMMS is submitted in order to outline a description of the main measures which have been proposed to enable co-existence with commercial fishing as well as to minimise any potential impacts throughout the construction, operation and maintenance (O&M), and decommissioning phases of the Salamander Project. This includes consideration of commitments made in the Commercial Fisheries chapter of the Offshore EIAR.

1.3.1.2 The intention of the Developer is to consult on this Outline FMMS with the Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) and their advisors prior to the approval of the FMMS. The document is based on the EIAR, industry best practices, and relevant legislation at the time of preparation.

1.4 Commitments and Mitigations

1.4.1.1 The Salamander Project has adopted commitments (primary design principles, installation techniques and engineering/design modifications) as part of the development phase to eliminate and/or reduce significant impacts. Further commitments (adopted best practice guidance) referred to as tertiary commitments are embedded as an inherent aspect of the EIA process. Secondary commitments are incorporated to reduce

Significant impacts, to environmentally acceptable levels following initial assessment i.e. so that residual effects are reduced, so far as possible, to environmentally acceptable levels. These commitments are outlined in **Volume ER.A.4, Annex 6.1 Commitments and Mitigations Register**.

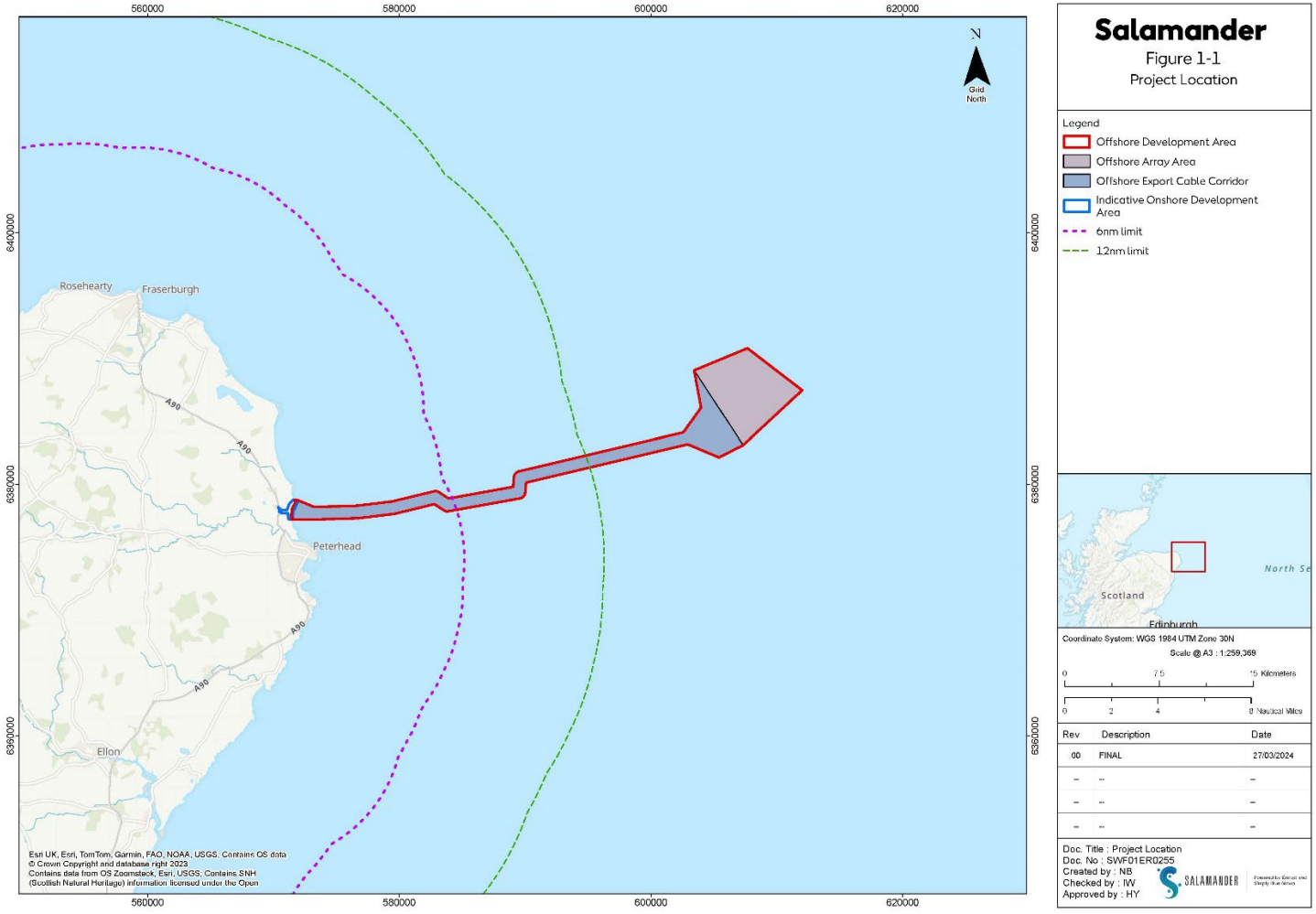

Figure 1-1 Project Location

1.5 Consultation

1.5.1.1 Consultation with MD-LOT and its statutory consultees, including fisheries organisations such as SFF, is fundamental to agreeing that the FMMS adopted for the Salamander Project is proportionate, effective and secured. As previously described, this document is intended to form a framework for engagement following the submission of the Salamander Project's Offshore Application. This document will be updated post-consent to reflect any potential changes to guidance, legislation or consent conditions.

1.5.1.2 The exact dates for agreement and refinement of the FMMS cannot be determined at this stage since this relies on detailed consent, procurement and construction timescales; however, key milestones have been outlined from the drafting of the Outline FMMS through to Construction, as shown in below.

Table 1-1 Consultation Milestones

Development Stage	Indicative Date (s)	Developer Actions	Relevant Statutory Authority/Advisor(s)
Post-application review of the Outline FMMS by MD-LOT and SFF	Q2 2024	Iterative review of the Outline FMMS during determination in response to any stakeholder comments, and identify (where necessary) any areas for revisions/updates.	Consultation with MD-LOT and advisors including SFF, and any other relevant parties.
Consent Decision	Q2 2025	Review final licence requirements relating to commercial fisheries.	N/A
Design optimisation	Pre-construction	Review the Outline FMMS and agreed approaches in light of the refined project design information and scheduling, taking into account any refinements that may be required as a result of the confirmation of design details.	N/A
First draft of the final FMMS	Following Contracts for Difference (CfD) award/Final Investment Decision (FID)	Based on the final design optimisation, the Developer will draft the final FMMS and submit to MD-LOT for approval.	MD-LOT and its advisors including SFF.
Finalisation and sign-off of the final FMMS	Prior to commencement of the relevant licensed activities	Update FMMS detail having regard to consultee comments.	MD-LOT to approve the final FMMS.

1.6 Guidance

1.6.1.1 This Outline FMMS has been created whilst referring to the following key guidance:

- Marine Scotland Guidance on preparing a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy – Draft 2020.
- Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments. Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison, 2014;

- FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Disruption Settlements and Community Funds, 2015; and
- Marine Scotland Good Practice Guidance for assessing fisheries displacement by other licensed marine activities, 2022.

1.6.1.2 Any updates to these guidance documents or new guidance will be reviewed upon finalisation of the FMMS.

2 Fisheries Management and Mitigation Measures

2.1 Management and Mitigation Measures

2.1.1.1 This section describes the Developer's approach to fisheries liaison and the proposed measures to be utilised in order to enable co-existence and minimise any impacts on fishing activities. As stated in **Volume ER.A.3, Chapter: 13 Commercial Fisheries** of the Offshore EIAR, relevant commercial fisheries to the Salamander Project are as follows:

- Demersal trawling – Whitefish, nephrops and squid fishery;
- Creeling – Lobster and crab fishery;
- Handlining – mackerel fishery; and
- Dredging – Scallop fishery.

2.1.1.2 The final FMMS will include all the relevant mitigation measures and commitments within the Offshore EIAR, as well as any relevant conditions that come from the Section 36 Consent and/or Marine Licences; these will be listed in **Table 2-1** which will be completed post-consent.

2.1.1.3 The proposed mitigation measures will be applicable to all of the fisheries mentioned above, unless otherwise stated.

Table 2-1 Fisheries Management and Mitigation Measures from the Offshore EIAR and Section 36 Consent and/or Marine Licence Conditions

Embedded Mitigation Measures Adopted as Part of the Salamander Project	Rationale
To be completed post-consent	

2.2 Communication and Information Transfer

2.2.1.1 Using a suitable communication and information transfer strategy is important as it reduces interference and enables effective co-existence with the fishing industry.

2.2.1.2 The main roles and responsibilities related to communicating and information distribution for liaising with the fishing industry for the Salamander Project are explained in their respective sections (**Section 2.2** and **2.3**).

2.3 Fisheries Liaison Roles and Responsibilities

The Developer

2.3.1.1 The Developer will adhere to the FLOWW (2014) Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison. The Developer commits to proactive, continued, and timely engagement with fisheries stakeholders through established and agreed communication channels. The Developer remains committed to maintaining an open dialogue and effective communications with the fishing industry to promote co-existence where possible.

2.3.1.2 The Developer will look to collaborate with other projects with infrastructure within a close proximity of the Salamander Project, to implement aligned mitigation approaches so as to reduce potential cumulative

impacts, specifically on potters in the nearshore region. Where necessary these projects may look to develop and implement a joint FMMS.

Fisheries Liaison Officer

2.3.1.3 A Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) has been appointed for the Salamander, and will continue to be appointed for the construction, O&M and decommissioning phases. The FLO will develop a positive working relationship with the local fishing industry and will have a solid understanding of the potential interactions between the Salamander Project and the local fishing industry.

2.3.1.4 The FLO will act as a primary point of contact for the fishing industry where communication with the Developer is required and will also disseminate information to the fishing industry (potentially via the Fishing Industry Representative (FIRs)).

Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer

2.3.1.5 Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer(s) (OFLOs) will be provided by the Developer, as appropriate, to serve during the construction phase of the Salamander Project. The purpose of this is to make sure the crews of all construction or guard vessels have an appropriately skilled and experienced OFLO with relevant knowledge of the local fisheries which may be affected by construction. The main role of the OFLO is to serve as a point of communication between the contractors and the fishing industry representatives on site throughout the construction phase. The OFLO will exchange information related to the progress of construction and safety zones between the Developer and fishing industry representatives.

2.3.1.6 Other responsibilities of the OFLO include:

- Maintaining regular contact with guard and support vessels whilst monitoring marine traffic and vessel activities in the area;
- Coordinating with any fishermen who may have stationary equipment positioned in areas pertinent to the Salamander Project and vessel transit paths; and
- Documenting information related to fishing activities within the vicinity of the Salamander Project, which encompasses fishing vessels, equipment, interactions with fishermen, as well as any instances of violations, relocation, or damage to stationary gear.

Fishing Industry Representative

2.3.1.7 The Salamander Project will look to utilise the relevant Commercial Fisheries Working Groups' FIR, whose role is to provide local expertise and act as a conduit of information between the project and the fishing industry. The FIR represents the views of all fishing sectors within their remit and is therefore required to have the backing and support of the regional fisheries section to enable a trusting relationship.

2.3.1.8 The FIR's main responsibilities will include the following:

- Serving as the main point of contact for the fishing community and being trustworthy enough to establish the opinions of the fishing industry, whilst being able to objectively provide this information to the Developer;
- Ensuring Notice to Mariners (NtMs) and the updates thereafter are sent to relevant parties;
- Attending public stakeholder engagement meetings upon invitation;
- Collect information from fishermen in their agreed remit related to fishing activity in an object and impartial manner; and

- Record and maintain the details of all communications with fishermen and the Developer.

Commercial Fisheries Working Group

2.3.1.9 The Salamander Project sits within the INTOG Commercial Fisheries Working Group. This group, set up in 2023, allows for a two-way dialogue between the INTOG projects and the Scottish Fishing Industry.

Marine and Helicopter Coordination Centre

2.3.1.10 The Marine and Helicopter Coordination Centre (MHCC) will be utilised by the Developer which will aid the construction, operation, and maintenance phases of the Salamander Project.

2.3.1.11 The purpose of the MHCC is to monitor the activity of vessels in areas related to the Salamander Project. Additionally, the MHCC will issue NtMs, Information to Sea Users Bulletins and weekly notices of operations (WNoO) throughout the construction phase. These documents will be sent to the FLO who will send them to the FIR and fishermen where necessary.

2.3.1.12 Additionally, the MHCC will serve as a main contact point for fishing vessels which are active in areas related to the Salamander Project. Fishing vessels can also contact the MHCC using marine radio channels or the dedicated MHCC phone number.

2.4 Communications and Information Distribution

2.4.1.1 The Developer will share suitable and reliable information with all relevant parties at the earliest opportunity and maintain efficient channels of communication regarding the Salamander Project to enable co-existence with fisheries stakeholders.

2.4.1.2 Suitable means of communication (e.g. emails, WhatsApp groups or calls) with fisheries stakeholders will be created to keep them updated on offshore operations during the construction, O&M, and decommissioning phases of the Salamander Project.

2.5 Safety Zones

2.5.1.1 In accordance with the Electricity (Offshore Generating Stations) (Safety Zones) (Application Procedures and Control of Access) Regulations 2007 (UK Parliament, 2007), the Salamander Project expects to apply for safety zones around each renewable energy installation during the construction or decommissioning periods under Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004 (UK Parliament, 2004) due to the restricted ability for vessels to manoeuvre in the vicinity of ongoing works. Section 62 of the Scotland Act 2016 (Scottish Parliament, 2016) amends Section 95 of the Energy Act 2004 making Scottish Ministers the appropriate Minister for safety zones.

2.5.1.2 A 500 m active safety zone surrounding each WTG (taken from the outer edge of each floating substructure at sea level) throughout the construction phase will be applicable to all vessels. Pre-commissioning safety zones of 50 m will be implemented for any infrastructure when construction has been completed but before the commissioning of the Salamander Project, or in instances where construction has been partially completed.

2.5.1.3 During the O&M phase when there are periods of major maintenance works being undertaken where there is a potential risk to other marine users or project operations and maintenance vessels or staff, temporary 500 m safety zones will be implemented.

2.5.1.4 As legal safety zones can only be established around the outer edge at sea level of an Offshore Renewable Energy Installation (OREI), rather than a vessel, it is standard safe working practice to establish advisory safe passing distances (generally 500 m) around installation and decommissioning vessels, e.g. around cable installation vessels as they move along the cable route. This is to protect both the construction vessels and other vessels using the surrounding area, especially where installation vessels are deploying larger anchor spreads.

2.5.1.5 In addition, advisory safety zones may also be put in place along vulnerable sections of cables (e.g. cables awaiting burial or protection), as determined by risk assessments.

2.5.1.6 Advanced warning and details of both safety zones and any minimum advisory safe passing distances will be provided by NtMs and Kingfisher Bulletins.

2.6 Guard Vessels

2.6.1.1 Guard Vessel(s) will be present on site where appropriate throughout the construction phase and will be provided by the Developer's contractors. These vessels promote safe construction by facilitating co-existence via communicating with other sea users which encroach upon the construction site. The guard vessel(s) will also exchange information on fishing activity and static fishing gear within the area with the FLO and OFLO.

2.7 Reporting of Dropped Objects

2.7.1.1 If an object related to the Salamander Project is unintentionally dropped at sea, a dropped objects procedure will be followed to maintain safety and reduce the risks to fishing vessels. If this object is considered to be a risk to navigation, a NtM will be issued when the object's location is identified. The Developer will notify (MD-LOT) via the 'dropped objects' reporting form, as well as any other relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, any additional actions deemed to be required after consultation with MD-LOT will be communicated via an NtM where relevant.

2.8 Offshore Vessel Management Plan and Navigation Safety Plan

2.8.1.1 A Vessel Management Plan (VMP) will be created by the Developer post-consent which will describe potential transit paths to and from the construction and O&M ports, as well as within the Offshore Development Area itself.

2.8.1.2 This document will explain the Developer's strategy for the maintenance of vessel safety, which includes fishing vessels, throughout the construction and operation of the Salamander Project. This document also describes potential sheltering and anchoring areas.

2.8.1.3 The Developer will engage in discussions with commercial fisheries stakeholders concerning suggested transit routes and possible shelter locations and will inform contractor vessels of any raised concerns.

2.8.1.4 A Navigation Safety Plan (NSP) will also be produced post-consent that will detail the additional navigational safety measures that will be applied during the construction and operation of the Salamander Project. It will encompass details regarding navigational safety protocols and provide a concise overview of emergency responses and coordination plans for the construction, operational, and maintenance phases of the Salamander Project.

2.9 Code of Good Practice for all Vessels

2.9.1.1 Any vessels contracted by the Developer to conduct construction and survey work will be defined according to their maneuverability as per Rule 3g of the International Regulations for the Prevention of Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) and the Code of Good Practice for Salamander Contracted Vessels.

2.9.1.2 All vessels contracted to the Salamander Project must maintain professional, polite and useful communications with other sea users, particularly fishing vessels during offshore operations, and they must monitor the necessary Very High Frequency (VHF) channels at all times to ensure communications from fishing vessels are received directly.

2.9.1.3 Appropriate risk assessments regarding potential interactions with commercial fishing vessels and their gears must be undertaken for all contracted vessels.

2.10 Procedures in Relation to Gear Fastening or Loss

2.10.1.1 The procedure outlined below mirrors the established approach employed within the UK offshore oil and gas sector and delineates the necessary actions to be taken by fishermen should their fishing equipment become entangled within the Salamander Project infrastructure:

- Excessive winch, line, net hauler loads or engine power should not be used to retrieve stuck equipment if it is not easily retrieved;
- The coastguard should be notified by the fishing vessel when the lost gear event occurs and location details should be provided;
- If the coastguard verifies that the vessel is in close proximity to cable or wind farm infrastructure, careful thought will be given to releasing the equipment, marking its location, and documenting the incident;
- Following the deployment of a buoy to mark the equipment, the location must be verified with both the coastguard and the FLO;
- Upon arrival at the port, make contact with the local Fishery Office and report the incident through the standard procedure;
- Submit a gear loss form and forward it to the FLO; and
- Grappling in an attempt to retrieve lost fishing gear close to the inter-array or export cabling should never occur.

2.10.1.2 The Salamander Project recommends all fishers who operate within the vicinity of offshore infrastructure are aware of KIS-ORCA guidance of reducing risk whilst fishing, which can be found online at https://kis-orca.org/safety/reducing-risks-whilst-fishing/.

3 References

FLOWW (2014). FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison.

FLOWW (2015). FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Disruption Settlements and Community Funds.

Marine Scotland (2020). Draft Guidance on preparing a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy ("FMMS"). Available at: https://marine.gov.scot/data/fisheries-management-and-mitigation-strategy-fmms-guidance-document. Accessed on 10 November 2023.

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