



**BWEA29**  
**offshore stakeholders session**

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# Our stall

- No monopoly on marine environment
  - recognise the need to co-exist with other sectors
    - and recognise the drive for renewable energy

# Our surroundings

- Period of transition / restructuring
  - CFP under question
  - Stock recovery
  - Effort control
  - Spatial planning?
- current economic status of fishing fleets is fragile and the potential loss of fishing grounds could threaten the viability of vessels

# Our (OWP) horizon

- Round 1 & 2
  - Learning curve?
  - Relationships remain fragmented and mutual understanding elusive (esp. compared with oil/gas & cable sectors)
- Round 3?
  - Further offshore
  - Scaled up?
  - Concentrated development?

# Fishing Industry Concerns

- Site Identification / Selection
- Access
- Displacement
- Mitigation

# Site Selection- criteria?

Wind resource

Water depth

Distance from shore

Connections to power transmission grids.

Marine nature conservation (e.g. Habitats and Birds Directives)

Military activity

Historic sites / wrecks

Navigation / recreational uses

Fisheries

# Access

- uncertainty exists over access / exclusion zones
- no common template / approach  
develop on site specific basis?  
requires dedicated investigations and dialogue
- communication and liaison must therefore be effective and extensive

# Displacement

- Temporary / Permanent?
- Direct
  - Increased steaming / less fishing time = economic cost
- Indirect
  - As above
  - Increased competition / gear conflict

# Mitigation

- Site Selection
- Turbine Array
- Compensation

should agreement be reached on the loss of fishing access at the site specific, regional, community or trans-national level and with individual vessel operators or associations?

# Round 3: Communication / Liaison

- Different Institutions
  - Regional Advisory Councils
  - EU / Trans-national groups
- Different Fleets
  - challenge to identify / define community
- Responsibilities rest on
  - developers
  - fishing industry
  - regulators

# Developers

- Early engagement with fisheries interests on site identification / selection
- should accept the principle that the denial of access to valuable fishing grounds (which could also lead to increased fishing effort on adjacent areas) should attract compensation

# Fishing Industry

- Provide evidence of activities
  - to date an absence of robust, high resolution information on fisheries activity compared with the structured and detailed advice for other uses of the marine environment

# Regulators

- appropriate policy framework and permit flexibility over site footprint
- should accept the principle that the denial of access to valuable fishing grounds (which could also lead to increased fishing effort on adjacent areas) should attract compensation.

# Shared Objectives (?)

- protocol for minimum fish resource assessment and liaison standards for the lifetime of any windfarm.
- agree research and data needs regarding e.g. physical and ecological issues

# Fishing Industry Objectives 1

- the EU, Members States and developers should consult at the earliest opportunity with the fishing industry on potential zones and specific sites, and certainly before site boundaries are agreed and fixed.
- NB fishing is a spatially dynamic activity and a degree of flexibility in site selection and pattern could reduce the potential impact on fishing, nursery or spawning grounds

# Fishing Industry Objectives 2

- regulatory / consenting authorities should provide flexibility in site selection and turbine array pattern, at all stages prior to construction.

# Fishing Industry Objectives 3

- **the development of a uniform “disturbance payment and distribution scheme” for the fishing industry.**

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- Thank you for your time