

ABWP Phase I Decommissioning

Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy

Volume 3, Appendix 3.6



Project name ABWP Phase I Decommissioning

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Ramboll
240 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8NW
United Kingdom
<https://ramboll.com>

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Statement of Authority

Author	Qualifications	Relevant Experience
Sarah MacNab NiMa Consultants Ltd	MSc Tropical Coastal Management (Distinction) from Newcastle University, 2004. BA (Hons) Geography (First Class Honours) from Nottingham University, 2003.	Sarah has over 20 years' experience in offshore energy consenting, specialising in commercial fisheries within Environmental Impact Assessments for offshore wind developments across the UK and Ireland. She leads fisheries impact assessment, mitigation and coexistence strategies, and develops post-consent monitoring and compliance plans. Sarah regularly advises developers on consent strategy, regulatory engagement and stakeholder management, and works collaboratively with industry, regulators and NGOs to support effective project delivery and risk management.
Fiona Nimmo NiMa Consultants Ltd	BSc (Hons) in Marine Biology (First Class Honours) from Newcastle University, 2003. BEng (Hons) in Chemical Engineering (2:1 Hons) from Edinburgh University, 2000.	Fiona has over 20 years' experience in commercial fisheries EIAs, including renewable energy developments for offshore wind and tidal projects across the UK and Ireland. She develops post-consent fisheries liaison and mitigation plans, as well as monitoring strategies to meet consent conditions. She also supports Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs) for UK nephrops and scallop fisheries, working collaboratively with industry, NGOs, and regulators through regular steering group meetings.

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Arklow Bank Wind Park (ABWP) Phase I	Arklow Bank Wind Park (ABWP) Phase I comprises: - Offshore infrastructure seaward of High Water Mark (HWM), including: - Seven Wind Turbine Generators (WTG) with a combined capacity of 25.2 MW; - One meteorological (met) mast; - Inter-array cables connecting the WTGs and met mast; and - One offshore export cable connecting WTG T4 with landfall at HWM; - Onshore infrastructure landward of HWM including: - One onshore cable connecting landfall at HWM with the onshore substation; and - One onshore substation compound, where the onshore substation and ancillary infrastructure are located.
Additional mitigation	Actions that will be required to reduce the significance of environmental effects of the Proposed Works, which will be dependent on the significance of effects assessed in the EIAR. Also referred to as secondary mitigation in Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2024). IEMA is now the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP).
Arklow Energy	Arklow Energy Limited, the entity seeking planning permission for the Proposed Works, i.e. the applicant.
Beam trawl	A towed fishing gear held open by a rigid beam and used mainly to target demersal species such as flatfish.
Commercial Fishing	Any form of fishing activity legally undertaken where the catch is sold for taxable profit.
Competent authority	Are those authorities that are entitled to give authorisation or consent to a plan or project. In the planning system, this means planning authorities and An Coimisiún Pleanála. There are, however, a wide range of other competent authorities in respect of other consent regimes e.g. EPA (environmental licencing), Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (forestry, aquaculture and foreshore management), and various state bodies that have authority to

Term	Meaning
	undertake development under Part 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations (e.g. An Garda Síochána, defence forces, the courts service). The competent authority for this planning application is An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP).
Cooperation Agreement	A formal agreement – which may also be referred to as a disruption agreement – between the Applicant and a fisher, intended to reduce disturbance or displacement to a fishery caused by the Proposed Works Offshore. Such agreements may be supported by monetary payment only where loss or access results from Proposed Works Offshore activities and that loss of access results in an evidenced financial loss, or a demonstrable risk of financial loss, to active fishing vessels.
Decommissioning	The final closing down and putting into a state of safety of a development, project or process when it has come to the end of its useful life (EPA, 2022).
Demersal otter trawl	A towed net held open by water pressure on two otter boards and fished along the seabed to target species such as nephrops and mixed demersal fish.
Demersal species	Demersal fish are species that live and feed on or near the seabed. Includes species such as haddock, cod, whiting and flatfish.
Dredge	Metal-framed basket or scoop that fishing vessels tow along the seabed for the purpose of catching molluscs (e.g. clams, oysters, scallops, mussels). Dredges are made of a robust steel frame, often with a toothed bar across the lower edge, and a heavily reinforced or chain link bag.
Effect	The consequence of an impact on a receptor. For example, in the offshore environment, vessel activity (activity) results in increased levels of underwater noise (impact), with the potential to disturb marine mammals (effect).
Embedded mitigation	Mitigation measures included as part of the Proposed Works. Include modifications arising through the iterative design process; and standard industry practice that would occur even without input from the EIA process, e.g. actions undertaken to meet other existing legislative requirements, or actions that are standard practices used to manage commonly occurring environmental effects. Correspond to primary and tertiary mitigation defined in Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (now Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP)) (2024).
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Process of assessment of the effects of a project or development proposal on the environment. In the planning area, it is undertaken by a planning authority or An Coimisiún Pleanála during the consideration of applications for planning permission, taking account of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The projects which require EIA are listed in Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive, as amended (Office of the Planning Regulator, n.d.).
Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)	A report or statement of the effects, if any, that Proposed Works, if carried out, would have on the environment. It is prepared by the developer to inform the EIA process (Office of the Planning Regulator, n.d.).
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	Area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea, subject to the specific legal regime established in this Part (UNCLOS, 1982). The EEZ in Ireland extends up to 200 nautical miles (nm) from the outer edge of the territorial sea.
Fisheries liaison	Communication and engagement between Arklow Energy and the fishing industry to exchange information and address fisheries issues.
Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)	An individual (or individuals) identified with the responsibility of liaising with the fishing industry to provide communication associated with the Proposed Works Offshore. Liaison duties are undertaken while at sea or from an onshore location.
Fishery	A group of vessel voyages which target the same species or use the same gear.
Fishing Ground	An area of water or seabed targeted by fishing activity.
Fleet	A physical group of vessels sharing similar characteristics (e.g. nationality).
Foreshore	The bed and shore, below the line of high water of ordinary or medium tides, of the sea and of every tidal river and tidal estuary and of every channel, creek, and bay of the sea or of any such river or estuary. Its outer limit is coterminous with the seaward limit of the territorial sea (Foreshore Act 1933 (as amended)), which is at a distance of 12 nm from the nearest point of the baseline or otherwise prescribed (Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2021 (as amended)).

Term	Meaning
Gear Type	The method/equipment used for fishing.
High Water Mark (HWM)	Level reached by the sea at high tide, measured as the mean of high tides.
Impact	A change brought about by the Proposed Works.
Inter-array cables	Subsea power lines that link individual wind turbine generators (WTGs) together in an offshore wind farm, forming an electrical network. In ABWP Phase I, inter-array cables connect WTGs and the met mast to each other and have an overall length of 7.4 km.
International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) statistical rectangles	ICES standardise the division of sea areas to enable statistical analysis of data. Each ICES statistical rectangle is '30 min latitude by 1 degree longitude' in size (approximately 30 nm x 30 nm). A number of rectangles are amalgamated to create ICES statistical areas.
Landfall	The point where the offshore export cable transitions from the offshore marine environment to the onshore terrestrial environment.
Landings	Quantitative description of the amount of fish returned to port for sale, in terms of value or weight.
Meteorological (Met) mast	A mast with a number of meteorological sensors located at different heights to record meteorological and sea condition data
Mitigation measures	Measures to avoid, prevent or reduce impacts (EPA, 2022). Distinction is made between embedded and additional mitigation, see separate definitions for these.
Monitoring	The periodic or continuous observation of biodiversity indicators and of other parameters that may affect biodiversity for any changes that may occur over time, so as to confirm predictions made with respect to likely effects and identify adverse changes that may require remedial action (Office of the Planning Regulator, n.d.).
Monopile (MP)	Hollow steel cylinder driven into the seabed typically used to anchor an offshore wind turbine generator (WTG). In ABWP Phase I, MPs support the seven WTGs as well as the meteorological (met) mast.
Nautical mile (nm)	Measurement used for distances at sea. 1 nm equates to 1.852 km.
Offshore export cable	Subsea power cable that transports the total generated power from an offshore wind farm to the onshore power grid. In ABWP Phase I, the offshore export cable connects the wind turbine generator (WTG) T4 to landfall with an approximate overall length of 15.6 km. At landfall, the offshore export cable transitions to the onshore cable connecting to the onshore substation.
Offshore Site	Part of the Site where Proposed Works Offshore are proposed to take place. In this application for planning permission, the Offshore Site comprises the Sub Lease Area, where the ABWP Phase I wind turbine generators (WTGs), met mast and inter-array cables are located, and the offshore export cable 10 m corridor connecting WTG T4 to the landfall at high water mark (HWM) near Arklow Harbour.
Pathway	The route by which an effect is conveyed between a source and a receptor (EPA, 2022).
Pelagic species	Pelagic fish are species which live and feed within the water column. Includes species such as herring, sprat and mackerel.
Pelagic trawl	Mid-water trawl gear used to target shoaling pelagic species such as sprat and herring.
Planning permission	Formal, legal approval required from a local planning authority or An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) to carry out development. The Proposed Works require planning permission submitted from ACP under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.
Pots	A general term to describe traps used to catch crabs, lobster, larger species of prawns (e.g. Nephrops) and some molluscs (e.g. whelks and octopus).
Potting	Static gear fishery using baited pots or creels to target shellfish species such as whelk, lobster and brown crab.
Principal Decommissioning Contractor	In this document, meaning the contractor(s) appointed to undertake the Proposed Works Offshore and to prepare, implement and update the Detailed Offshore Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) and

Term	Meaning
	associated management plans, including the FMMS, keeping them as live documents until completion.
Proposed Works	The Proposed Works include decommissioning of ABWP Phase I offshore infrastructure (Proposed Works Offshore) and decommissioning of ABWP Phase I onshore infrastructure (Proposed Works Onshore).
Receptor	Any element in the environment which is subject to impacts (EPA, 2022).
Recycling	Subjection of waste to any process or treatment to make it re-usable in whole or in part (Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)).
Residual effect	The final predicted effect / impact remaining after mitigation (EPA, 2022).
Scallop dredge	A rigid dredging gear towed along the seabed to target king scallop or queen scallop.
Scour protection	Engineered barrier typically placed on the seabed around WTG foundations and subsea cables to prevent sediment erosion caused by accelerated water currents and waves, safeguarding the WTG's stability and protecting subsea cables. In ABWP Phase I, scour protection was originally introduced in the form of rock armour, however, this proved ineffective, and was removed in 2005. Since then, scour protection has been introduced through sandbags.
Sensitivity	The potential of a receptor to be significantly affected (EPA, 2022).
Shellfish	Within the context of commercial fisheries and aquaculture, shellfish is considered a generic term to define molluscs and crustaceans; fish with a hard outer case or shell.
Significance	The importance of the outcome of the impact (or the consequence of change) for the receiving environment (EPA, 2022).
Static gear	Any form of fishing gear that operates without being towed or moved through the water (i.e. crustaceans pots, long lines, set nets, traps).
Sub Lease Area	Area where the ABWP Phase I WTGs, met mast and inter-array cables are located, as defined in the Sub Lease granted by Sure Partners Limited (SPL) to Arklow Energy Limited (Arklow Energy) to construct and operate ABWP Phase I.
Territorial sea	Belt of sea adjacent to a coastal State's land territory and internal waters, over which the State has sovereignty. A coastal State may claim up to 12 nautical miles from its baseline (usually the low-water line along the coast) (UNCLOS, 1982).
the Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture Study Area	Area covered in the characterisation of the baseline environment and considered in the assessment of potential environmental effects relevant to Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture, defined as ICES Rectangles 34E3 and 34E4, see Section 3.1 and Figure 2 in this document.
Transition Piece	The steel connection structure between the tower and the monopile (MP) foundation.
Waste	Any substance or object belonging to a category of waste specified in the First Schedule or for the time being included in the European Waste Catalogue which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard, and anything which is discarded or otherwise dealt with as if it were waste shall be presumed to be waste until the contrary is proved (Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)).
Waste Hierarchy	The order of preference for managing waste, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery ahead of disposal.
Whelk	The common whelk (<i>Buccinum undatum</i>), the principal shellfish species identified as commercially important within the local study area.
Wind Turbine Generator (WTG)	Structure that converts the kinetic energy of ocean winds into electrical energy. ABWP Phase I includes seven GE Energy 3.6s WTGs with a rated capacity of 3.6 megawatts (MW) per WTG.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
ABWP	Arklow Bank Wind Park

Acronym	Meaning
ACP	An Coimisiún Pleanála
BIM	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
COLREGS	The Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea
DEMP	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
DRM	Dispute Resolution Mechanism
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
FIR	Fisheries Industry Representative
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
FLOWW	Fisheries Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables
FMMS	Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy
HWM	High Water Mark
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Seas
LMP	Lighting and Marking Plan
MMMP	Marine Mammal Mitigation Protocol
MSO	Marine Survey Office
NMPF	National Marine Planning Framework
NtM	Notice to Mariners
ORE	Offshore Renewable Energy
SOLAS	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea
SFPA	Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority
TP	Transition piece
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
VHF	Very high frequency
VMP	Vessel Management Plan
WMP	Waste Management Plan
WTG	Wind Turbine Generator

Units

Unit	Meaning
km	Kilometre
m	Metre
MW	Megawatt
nm	Nautical mile

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1.1 Arklow Energy Limited (Arklow Energy) is seeking planning permission to decommission Arklow Bank Wind Park (ABWP) Phase I (referred to hereafter as 'the Proposed Works'). The Proposed Works include decommissioning of ABWP Phase I offshore infrastructure (Proposed Works Offshore) and decommissioning of ABWP Phase I onshore infrastructure (Proposed Works Onshore).
- 1.1.1.2 This Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) has been prepared by NiMa Consultants Ltd. (NiMa) to support the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the Proposed Works Offshore.
- 1.1.1.3 The Proposed Works Offshore will be undertaken within the Offshore Site (see **Volume 2, Chapter 3: Proposed Works Description**, and **Section 1**), which includes:
- The Sub Lease Area, located on the long narrow Arklow Bank sand bank, situated approximately 10 km off the coast of Arklow, south-east Ireland, where seven wind turbine generators (WTGs) and foundations, associated scour protection, 7.4 km of inter-array cables and one met mast are located; and
 - A 10 m wide cable corridor along the 15.6 km offshore export cable route connecting WTG T4 to the landfall point at High Water Mark (HWM).
- 1.1.1.4 Personnel, Principal Decommissioning Contractor and sub-contractors involved in the Proposed Works Offshore are required to comply with this FMMS.

1.2 Scope and Objectives of this FMMS

- 1.2.1.1 The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2021) provides specific policies for fisheries in the context of marine developments. Where significant adverse impact on access for existing fishing activities occurs, it must be demonstrated that proposals will (in order of preference) avoid, minimise or mitigate such impacts (Fisheries Policy 1). In addition, where significant impacts are identified, a Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) should be prepared (Fisheries Policy 2).
- 1.2.1.2 In addition, of relevance to commercial fisheries, is the NMPF (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2021) Co-existence Policy 1: Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered how to optimise the use of space, including through consideration of opportunities for co-existence and co-operation with other activities, enhancing other activities where appropriate. If proposals cannot avoid significant adverse impacts (including displacement) on other activities they must, in order of preference: a) minimise significant adverse impacts, b) mitigate significant adverse impacts, or c) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.
- 1.2.1.3 Of relevance to aquaculture is the NMPF Aquaculture Policy 2, which states that non-aquaculture proposals in aquaculture production areas (i.e. licensed aquaculture sites) must demonstrate consideration of, and compatibility with, aquaculture production. Where compatibility is not possible, proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: avoid; minimise; mitigate significant adverse impacts on aquaculture. Furthermore, if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts upon aquaculture, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.
- 1.2.1.4 The Offshore Site (where Proposed Works Offshore will take place) is not located within or immediately adjacent to an aquaculture production area. A licensed mussel aquaculture site is located approximately 4.5 km south of the Offshore Export Cable Route and has therefore been considered within the wider Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture assessment.

- 1.2.1.5 As detailed within **Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture**, significant impacts were initially identified for commercial fisheries (specifically the Irish potting fleet) as a result of the Proposed Works Offshore, requiring additional mitigation to reduce the residual impacts to not significant in environmental impact assessment (EIA) terms. This FMMS has therefore been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the NMPF and industry good practice to define fisheries liaison and mitigation measures that will minimise disruption to fishing activity, facilitate co-existence and reduce residual effects to not significant in EIA terms.
- 1.2.1.6 The overall aim and objective of the FMMS is to provide details on Arklow Energy's approach to fisheries liaison and mitigation for the Proposed Works Offshore, including proposed measures to facilitate co-existence between the Proposed Works Offshore and commercial fishing and to minimise potential impacts.
- 1.2.1.7 In line with the requirements of the NMPF, industry standards and good practice (as detailed in **Section 1.3**), this FMMS has the following key primary functions:
- To ensure that appropriate liaison channels with the fishing industry are established and that effective liaison is maintained throughout the Proposed Works Offshore; and
 - To define appropriate management and mitigation measures to minimise potential impacts on fishing activities and facilitate co-existence throughout the Proposed Works Offshore.
- 1.2.1.8 It should be noted that non-commercial fishing activities are outside the scope of EIAR **Volume 2, Chapter 6**, and this FMMS, and the management of interactions with other marine users are separately covered in **Volume 3, Appendix 3.4: Outline Offshore Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)**.

1.3 Relevant Guidance

- 1.3.1.1 This FMMS has been developed in accordance with the following guidance:
- Seafood / Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Engagement in Ireland – A Summary Guide (Seafood/ORE Working Group, 2023).
- 1.3.1.2 In preparation of this FMMS, other internationally relevant guidance has also been considered, including:
- Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) (2025). Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments; and
 - Marine licensing and consenting: offshore renewable energy projects, Mitigation and Monitoring Plans, Fisheries Mitigation, Monitoring and Communication Plan (hereafter referred to as the Marine Directorate Guidance) (Marine Directorate, 2025).

1.4 FMMS Audience

- 1.4.1.1 It is Arklow Energy's responsibility to ensure the implementation of this FMMS. Implementation of the FMMS will be monitored by: Arklow Energy Environmental Manager, Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) and the Principal Decommissioning Contractor (and subcontractors were applicable). Copies of the FMMS will be held in the following locations:
- Arklow Energy's site office;
 - At the premises of any contractor (as appropriate); and
 - Aboard any vessel engaged in activities associated with the Proposed Works Offshore.

1.5 Consents and Other Plans

- 1.5.1.1 This FMMS sets out specific procedures relating to mitigation of effects on commercial fisheries. It will form part of a suite of approved documents that will provide the framework for the management of the Proposed Works Offshore. These other plans are detailed in **Table 1.1** below together with the relevant linkages with this FMMS.

Table 1.1: FMMS linkages with other Proposed Works Offshore consent plans

Embedded mitigation	Description	Relevance to FMMS
Development and adherence to the Detailed Offshore Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)	Volume 3, Appendix 3.4: Outline Offshore DEMP presents standard industry practice and legal requirements for environmental management and mitigation that will be implemented as part of the Proposed Works Offshore. The Outline Offshore DEMP also summarises any required additional mitigation identified in relevant EIAR chapters, serving as a framework for the Principal Decommissioning Contractor(s) to develop in detail before decommissioning works commence.	This plan will sets out the Arklow Energy's overarching approach to environmental management of the Proposed Works Offshore and includes a register of mitigation, management and monitoring identified in the EIAR. This ensures that measures relevant to commercial fisheries, including those set out in the FMMS, are implemented in a coordinated and auditable manner. The FMMS will be appended to the Detailed Offshore DEMP.
Development and adherence to the Detailed Vessel Management Plan (VMP)	Volume 3, Appendix 3.5: Outline VMP defines best-practice vessel management measures, including transit routes, speed restrictions, timing of activities, pollution prevention, and crew environmental awareness, to minimise disturbance, collision risk, and ecological harm.	This plan will support the management of vessel activity associated with the Proposed Works Offshore, which is a potential pathway for interaction with fishing vessels. Measures relating to vessel routing, speed, awareness and coordination assist Arklow Energy in reducing the risk of interaction with fishing activity and support safe coexistence at sea.
Development and adherence to the Detailed Lighting and Marking Plan (LMP)	Volume 3, Appendix 3.7: Outline Lighting and Marking Plan identifies required lighting and marking throughout the Proposed Works Offshore in line with relevant standards and legal requirements.	Ensures that vessels and active work areas associated with the Proposed Works Offshore are clearly visible and identifiable to other marine users, including fishing vessels. This supports safe navigation and reduces the risk of collision or unintended interaction with fishing activity.
Development and adherence to the Detailed Offshore Waste Management Plan (WMP)	Volume 3, Appendix 3.8: Outline Offshore WMP establishes a clear framework for the identification, handling, and management of wastes arising from Proposed Works Offshore, ensuring compliance with standard industry practice and relevant waste legislation, and the principles of the waste hierarchy.	Supports Arklow Energy in reducing the risk of debris or materials entering the marine environment, which could otherwise present a snagging hazard to fishing gear or interfere with fishing activity. This contributes to maintaining a safe seabed environment during and following Proposed Works Offshore.

2 PROPOSED WORKS OFFSHORE

- 2.1.1.1 The Proposed Works Offshore comprise the decommissioning of ABWP Phase I offshore infrastructure, which may be undertaken during one or two main campaigns, with activities that are temporary, intermittent and spatially progressive, see **Volume 2, Chapter 3** for additional detail on Proposed Works Offshore.
- 2.1.1.2 Pre-decommissioning surveys will be undertaken within a 2-week period, and two main campaigns are anticipated:
- Campaign 1: removal of seven WTGs and one met mast (10 weeks);
 - Campaign 2: removal of transition pieces (TPs) and partial removal of monopile (MP) foundations, removal of scour protection, inter-array cables (~7.4 km) and offshore export cable (~15.6 km), and completion of post-decommissioning surveys (16 weeks).
- 2.1.1.3 Campaigns will be undertaken in the summer months, typically between May and October in the same or different calendar years, operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and will be supported by a range of vessels including jack-up barges, tugboats, multicats, dredgers and survey vessels, with multiple vessel types operating concurrently.
- 2.1.1.4 A temporary buoyed work area will be established around the Sub Lease Area (approximately 1,605 m × 4,817 m) during relevant Proposed Works Offshore. Separately, a moving work area of 500 m around the decommissioning vessel involved in offshore export cable removal works will be implemented progressively along the offshore export cable route as works progress. Within these temporary work areas, other sea users, including fishing vessels, will be advised not to enter during Proposed Works Offshore activities for safety reasons.
- 2.1.1.5 Proposed Works Offshore within the Sub Lease Area may include localised dredging (if required) to facilitate safe vessel access, with a maximum spatial extent of approximately 287,831 m², Scour protection removal may also be undertaken around foundations, depending on visible / accessible scour protection, i.e. at up to eight locations. Offshore export cable removal works will comprise removal of cable and associated infrastructure and are not anticipated to require dredging activities.
- 2.1.1.6 Proposed Works Offshore will involve progressive removal of infrastructure, with associated vessel movements (including survey, dredging, lifting and cable recovery operations), resulting in temporary increases in vessel activity and operational footprints across the Offshore Site.
- 2.1.1.7 All infrastructure and materials removed will be transported to port for reuse, recycling or disposal, and post-decommissioning surveys will be undertaken to confirm seabed conditions and completion of Proposed Works Offshore.

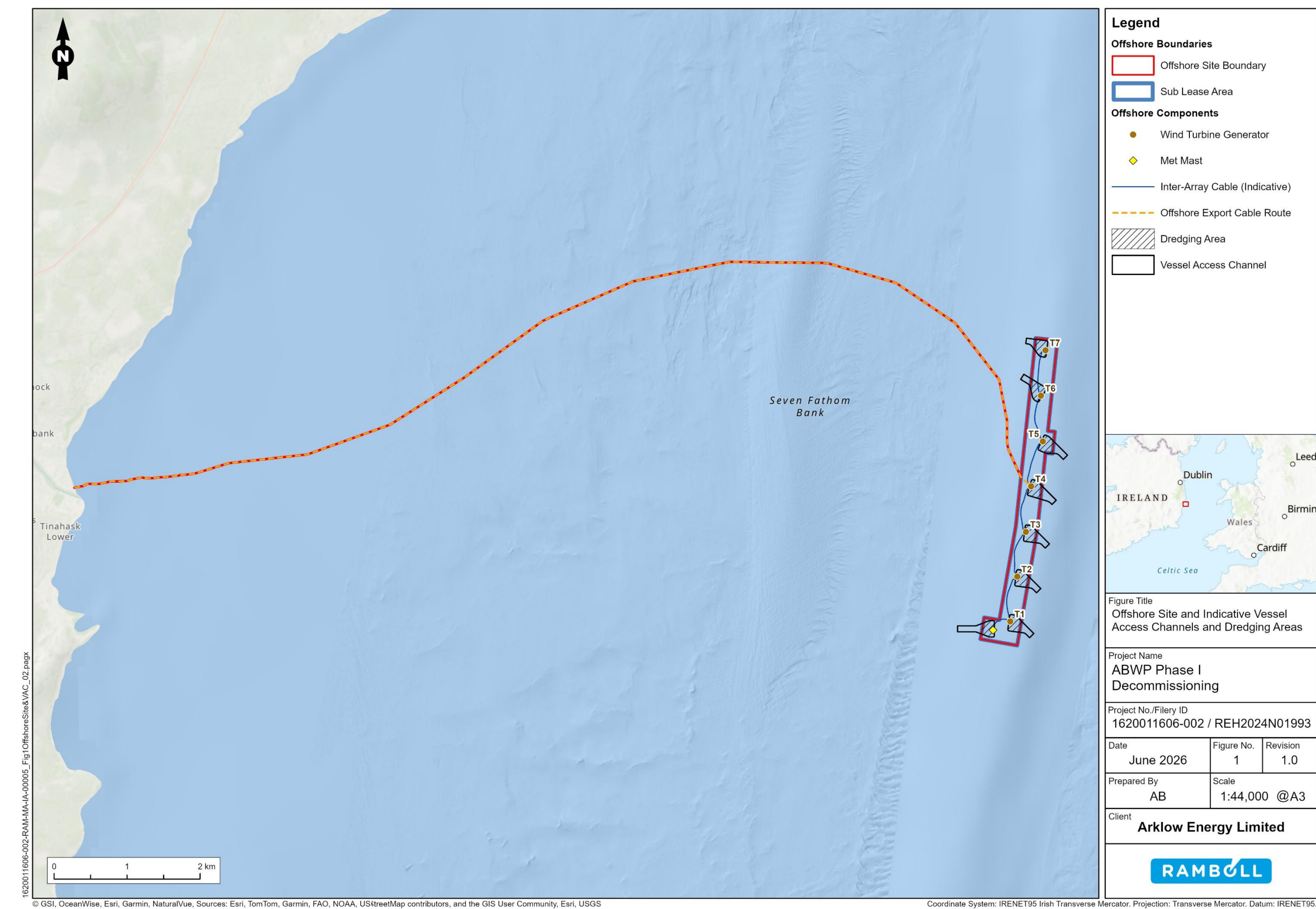


Figure 1: Offshore Site and indicative vessel access channels and dredging areas

3 FISHERIES OVERVIEW

3.1 Fishing Activity within the Offshore Site

- 3.1.1.1 This FMMS has been informed by the data collected to support the Proposed Works EIAR. Information on fishing activity presented in the EIAR (see **Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture**, and **Volume 3, Appendix 6.1: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Report** for detail) is not repeated in full here, though a summary is provided.
- 3.1.1.2 Based on the information gathered, **Table 3.1** identifies the fishing fleets with which the Proposed Works Offshore may interact. Reference is made in **Table 3.1** to fishing activity in the Study Area used to inform **Volume 2, Chapter 6**, illustrated in **Figure 2**. The Study Area has been defined with reference to the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) rectangles within which the Proposed Works Offshore are located:
- ICES Rectangle 34E3: the nearshore rectangle within which most of the offshore export cable route is located; and
 - ICES Rectangle 34E4: the rectangle within which the Sub Lease Area and a small section of the offshore export cable Route located.
- 3.1.1.3 Unless otherwise specified, the measures proposed in this FMMS apply to all the fisheries identified below. Where additional measures have been proposed in relation to specific fisheries to reduce significant effects identified in the EIAR (see Section 5.4), this is clearly noted within this FMMS.

Table 3.1: Commercial fishing fleets and aquaculture operations relevant to the Proposed Works Offshore

Receptor	Description
Potting fishery	Irish potting vessels (primarily under 12 m in length) targeting whelk year-round, and brown crab and lobster seasonally within inshore waters. Potential activity in the offshore export cable route. No activity anticipated in the Sub Lease Area.
Mussel seed fishery	Irish vessels authorised to harvest mussel seed using dredges, typically operating seasonally in inshore waters subject to stock availability and licensing. Potential activity in the offshore export cable route. No activity anticipated in the Sub Lease Area.
Scallop dredge fishery	Irish dredging vessels targeting king scallop within inshore and nearshore areas. No activity anticipated within the Offshore Site, but potential for activity in the wider Study Area.
Pelagic trawl fleet	Irish pelagic trawlers targeting sprat and herring. No activity anticipated within the Offshore Site, but potential for activity in the wider Study Area.
Beam trawl fleet	Irish and Belgian beam trawlers targeting plaice, sole and mixed demersal species. No activity anticipated within the Offshore Site, but potential for activity in the wider Study Area.
Demersal otter trawl fleet	Irish demersal otter trawlers targeting Nephrops, haddock and mixed demersal species. No activity anticipated within the Offshore Site, but potential for activity in the wider Study Area.
Aquaculture mussel cultivation	Licensed mussel aquaculture site located approximately 4.5 km from the Offshore Site, comprising suspended cultivation structures used for the settlement and on-growing of mussels. No activity anticipated within the Offshore Site.

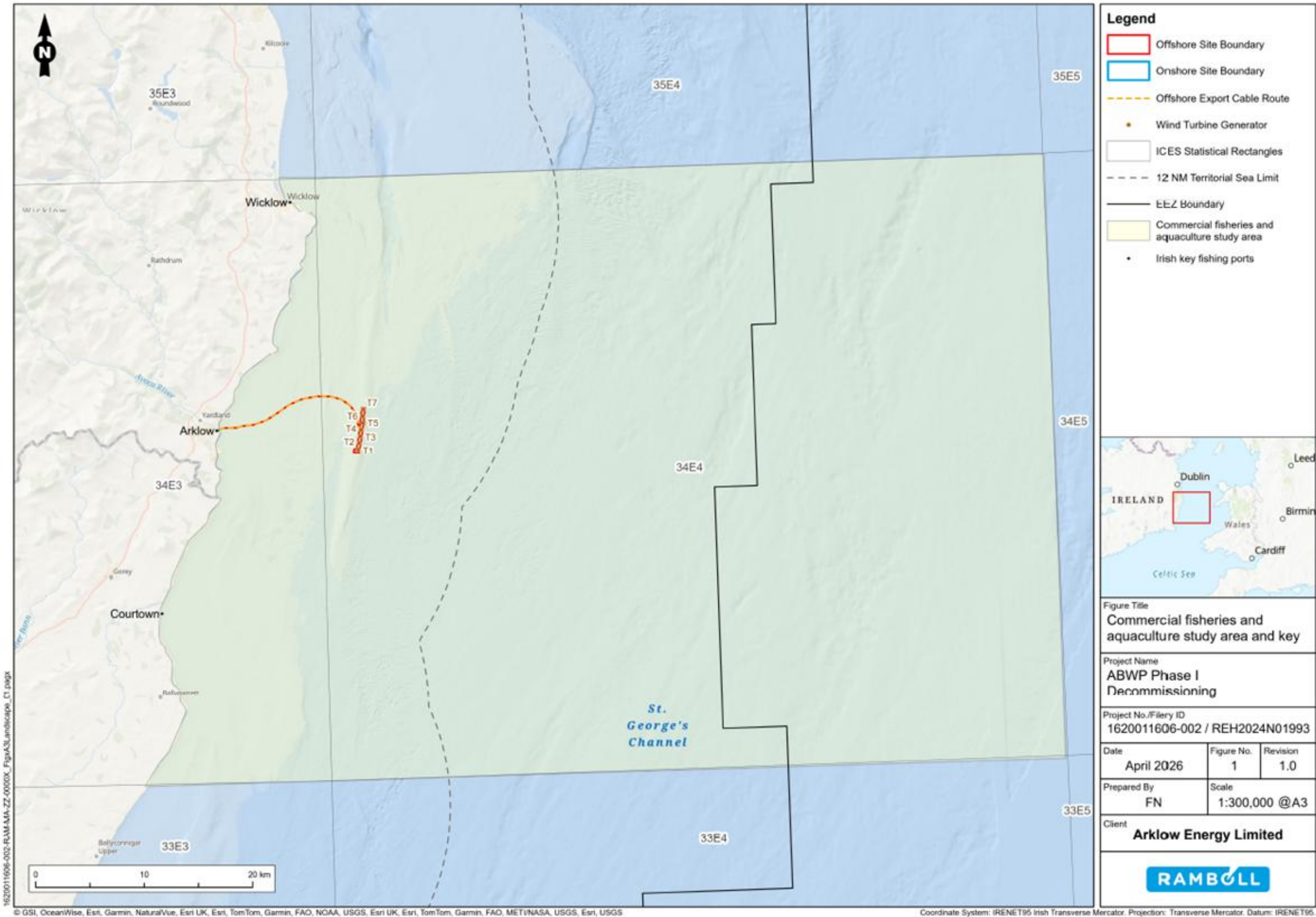


Figure 2: Proposed Works Offshore Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture Study Area

3.2 Fisheries Stakeholders and Engagement

- 3.2.1.1 Arklow Energy has undertaken engagement with relevant fisheries stakeholders as part of the wider Proposed Works development and consenting process. This engagement has been carried out in accordance with applicable guidance and is documented within the EIAR and supporting application materials.
- 3.2.1.2 Key fisheries stakeholders include, but are not limited to:
- Commercial fishing operators active within the vicinity of the Offshore Site;
 - Relevant fisheries representative organisations; and
 - Statutory bodies with responsibility for the management and regulation of fisheries.
- 3.2.1.3 A summary of engagement activities undertaken to date is provided in the **Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Report** prepared in support of the planning application.
- 3.2.1.4 Of relevance to the FMMS, prior to submission of the application and FMMS, Arklow Energy undertook targeted engagement with commercial fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders through the FLO. This engagement was undertaken to communicate the Proposed Works, understand existing fishing activity, identify potential interactions with fishing operations, inform the development of appropriate mitigation measures and provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the scope of the FMMS.
- 3.2.1.5 Engagement undertaken to date includes:
- March 2026: A briefing letter was issued to 35 registered fisheries and aquaculture vessel owners identified as potentially operating within or in the vicinity of the Offshore Site, providing an overview of the Proposed Works and potential implications for fishing activity;
 - April and May 2026: The FLO undertook nine informal meetings and one telephone discussion with recipients to discuss the Proposed Works and receive stakeholder feedback; and
 - June 2026: A summary of the proposed FMMS was circulated to the same stakeholders, together with an invitation to provide comments on the proposed scope and content of the FMMS.
- 3.2.1.6 This FMMS builds upon that engagement and focuses specifically on the management of interactions between the Proposed Works Offshore and commercial fishing activity, including ongoing communication through the Fisheries Liaison structure described in **Section 1**.

4 FISHERIES LIAISON

4.1 Principles of Liaison

- 4.1.1.1 Arklow Energy recognises that effective liaison with the fishing industry is fundamental to facilitating coexistence between the Proposed Works Offshore and commercial fisheries.
- 4.1.1.2 For the purposes of this FMMS, coexistence is defined as the continued presence of both Proposed Works Offshore activities and commercial fishing within and around the Offshore Site. Coexistence does not imply the absence of interaction, but rather that interactions are appropriately managed through communication, planning and mitigation.
- 4.1.1.3 Arklow Energy will implement a fisheries liaison strategy based on the following core principles:
- Early, transparent and ongoing engagement with fisheries stakeholders throughout all phases of the Proposed Works Offshore, including preparatory activities, decommissioning activities and post-decommissioning monitoring, where relevant;
 - Timely provision of accurate information to enable fishers to make informed operational decisions, including advance notice of activities, locations and durations;
 - Proactive and two-way communication, ensuring that concerns raised by fishers are recorded, considered and addressed where practicable;
 - Respect for the fishing industry, recognising its economic and cultural importance and the need to minimise disruption wherever possible;
 - Application of the mitigation hierarchy, whereby potential interactions are avoided where possible, minimised where avoidance is not feasible, and mitigated where residual effects remain; and
 - Commitment to good practice guidance, including the Seafood / Offshore Renewable Energy Working Group (2023) principles of engagement, which emphasise mutual respect, collaboration, proportionality and transparency.
- 4.1.1.4 In line with Seafood / ORE guidance, liaison will be undertaken on the basis of mutual respect, collaboration and best endeavours to reach agreement, recognising the need to balance safety, operational requirements and fisheries interests.

Effective communication and information exchange are considered key mechanisms to minimise disruption, reduce the potential for conflict, and support safe and efficient operations for all sea users.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities

4.2.1 General Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.2.1.1 Clear roles and responsibilities are essential to ensure effective implementation of the fisheries liaison strategy. The Applicant will maintain an appropriate fisheries liaison structure throughout the Proposed Works Offshore, including the appointment of dedicated fisheries liaison personnel.
- 4.2.1.2 This section of the FMMS outlines the relevant roles and responsibilities of the team and the linkage between specific roles and fisheries consultees. A team organogram is provided in **Figure 3**.

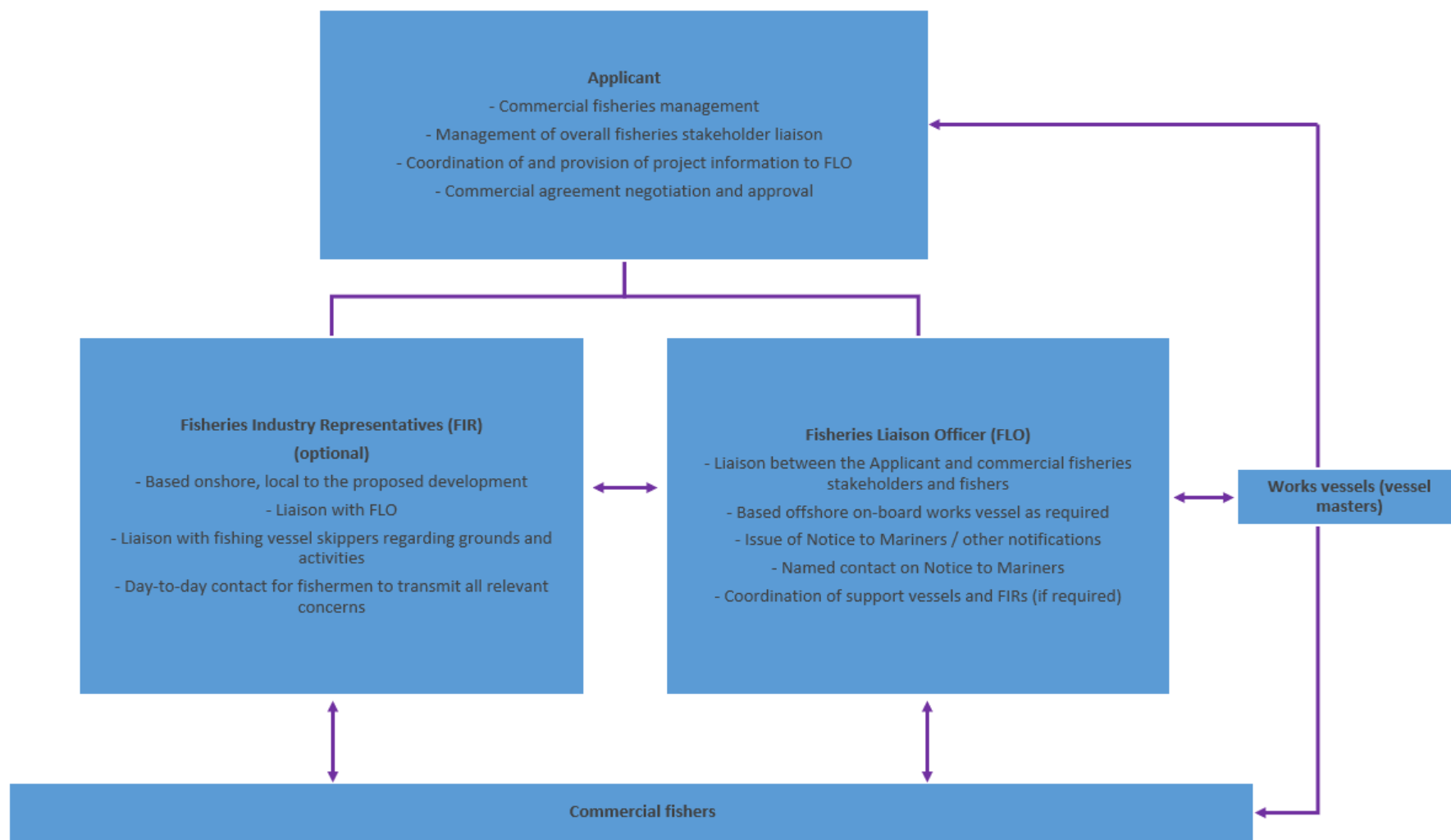


Figure 3: Arklow Energy (Applicant) fisheries liaison team organogram

4.2.2 Arklow Energy

4.2.2.1 Arklow Energy (the Applicant in **Figure 3**) has overall responsibility for implementation of this FMMS and will:

- Ensure that the Proposed Works Offshore are undertaken with the least practicable disruption to commercial fishing activity;
- Maintain appropriate fisheries liaison resources, including a FLO as required;
- Ensure that the Principal Decommissioning Contractor and sub-contractors are aware of and comply with this FMMS; and
- Facilitate the timely dissemination of information relating to Proposed Works Offshore activities.

4.2.3 Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

4.2.3.1 A suitably qualified and experienced FLO will be appointed to act as the primary point of contact between the Applicant and fisheries stakeholders.

4.2.3.2 Where Proposed Works Offshore are undertaken in areas of active fishing activity or where considered necessary to support safe coordination between Proposed Works Offshore vessels and fishing vessels, the FLO will fulfil both the onshore-based fisheries liaison role and offshore liaison responsibilities.

4.2.3.3 The FLO will be responsible for:

- Maintaining effective communication with the fishing industry, regulators and other stakeholders;
- Where safe coordination between Proposed Works Offshore vessels and fishing vessels is needed, the FLO will act as the primary point of contact at sea between Proposed Works Offshore vessels and fishing vessels;
- Developing and maintaining a fisheries stakeholder database, including vessel and contact information;
- Ensuring that relevant information on Proposed Works Offshore activities is distributed in a timely and accessible manner;
- Organising and attending meetings with fisheries stakeholders, including port visits where appropriate;
- Advising Arklow Energy and Principal Decommissioning Contractor on fishing activity, sensitivities and potential interactions;
- Maintaining a log of communications and any fisheries-related issues raised;
- Coordinating responses to fisheries concerns, including facilitating resolution where practicable; and
- Where undertaking an offshore FLO function, acting as the primary point of contact at sea between Proposed Works Offshore vessels and fishing vessels, maintaining situational awareness of fishing activity in the vicinity of the works, and communicating directly with fishers to support the safe coordination of offshore activities.

4.2.3.4 The FLO will play a key role in ensuring that engagement is consistent with Seafood / ORE guidance, including maintaining trust and transparency.

4.2.4 Fisheries Industry Representative (FIR)

4.2.4.1 Where considered beneficial to support effective engagement with local fisheries stakeholders, and subject to stakeholder agreement, a FIR may optionally be engaged.

4.2.4.2 The FIR will:

- Provide local knowledge of fishing activity and sensitivities;
- Act as an additional communication channel between the Applicant and the fishing community; and

- Support effective and constructive engagement with local fisheries stakeholders.

4.2.4.3 The use of a FIR will be considered in line with best practice and stakeholder expectations, noting that direct engagement between the FLO and fishers will remain available at all times.

4.2.5 Contractors and Vessel Operators

4.2.5.1 All contractors and vessel operators engaged in the Proposed Works Offshore will:

- Comply with the requirements of this FMMS;
- Maintain appropriate communication with fisheries stakeholders, supported by the FLO;
- Ensure that vessel crews are briefed on fisheries sensitivities and liaison procedures; and
- Adhere to relevant navigational safety and communication protocols.

4.2.6 Support Vessels

4.2.6.1 Support vessels may be deployed, where required, during Proposed Works Offshore to support safe and effective coordination with other marine users, including fishing vessels.

4.2.6.2 Where undertaking a fisheries liaison and marine coordination role, support vessels may:

- Monitor fishing activity in the vicinity of active decommissioning works;
- Provide real-time communication with fishing vessels operating nearby;
- Advise on the location and extent of ongoing works, including vessel movements and temporary work areas;
- Support safe navigation by increasing awareness of offshore activities; and
- Assist in the coordination of interactions between decommissioning vessels and fishing vessels, where necessary.

4.2.6.3 These support vessels will operate as an extension of the offshore fisheries liaison function, working closely with the FLO, where appointed.

4.2.6.4 The use of support vessels for fisheries liaison purposes will be proportionate to the nature and scale of activities underway, recognising that decommissioning works will be temporary and spatially progressive.

4.2.6.5 Where deployed, support vessels will maintain appropriate communication channels (e.g. Very high frequency (VHF)) and will operate in accordance with relevant maritime safety requirements.

4.3 Information Dissemination

4.3.1 General Information Dissemination

4.3.1.1 Arklow Energy will implement a structured approach to information dissemination to ensure that fisheries stakeholders are kept informed of Proposed Works Offshore activities.

4.3.2 Methods of Communication

4.3.2.1 Information will be disseminated through:

- Notices to Mariners (NtMs);
- direct communication via the FLO (email, telephone, meetings);
- offshore communication via FLO and support vessels; and
- engagement with fisheries organisations and representative bodies.

4.3.3 Information Dissemination Schedule

4.3.3.1 An indicative schedule of information dissemination is provided in **Table 4.1**.

Table 4.1: Information dissemination schedule

Activity	Means of Dissemination	Timing / Frequency	Responsibility
Pre-decommissioning surveys	NtMs; direct communication via FLO (at sea)	Prior to mobilisation; updates during works; completion notice	FLO
Pre-decommissioning activities (e.g. seabed preparation)	NtMs; direct communication via FLO (at sea)	Prior to mobilisation; ongoing updates as required	FLO
Decommissioning works (offshore infrastructure removal)	NtMs; direct communication via FLO (at sea)	Advance notice (where practicable); weekly updates during works; completion notice	FLO
Vessel movements and operational updates	NtMs; FLO communications; support vessels	Ongoing during offshore works	FLO
Localised hazards (e.g. dropped objects, debris)	NtMs; direct communication via FLO (at sea)	As soon as practicable following identification	FLO
Post-decommissioning surveys	NtMs; direct communication via FLO (at sea)	Prior to mobilisation; updates during works; completion notice	FLO
Project updates	Email / meetings with stakeholders	Periodically (e.g. biannual or as required)	Applicant and FLO
Ad hoc engagement	Email, phone, in-person meetings	As required	Applicant and FLO

4.3.4 Content of Communications

4.3.4.1 Information provided will include, where relevant:

- Location, timing and duration of activities;
- Nature of decommissioning works (e.g. removal operations, survey works);
- Vessel presence and movements;
- Areas of active operations (noting these will be temporary and localised);
- Any potential hazards to navigation or fishing activity; and
- Contact details for fisheries liaison personnel.

4.3.4.2 Advance notice will be provided wherever practicable to allow fishers to plan operations and avoid interactions with active works.

4.3.5 Ongoing Engagement

4.3.5.1 Arklow Energy will maintain ongoing engagement with fisheries stakeholders throughout the Proposed Works Offshore.

4.3.5.2 This will include:

- Continued liaison with fisheries organisations and regulators;
- Availability of the FLO as a consistent point of contact;
- Opportunities for stakeholders to raise concerns; and
- Adaptive management of liaison measures where appropriate.

4.3.5.3 This approach reflects the temporary and progressive nature of decommissioning, ensuring that fisheries liaison remains proportionate, responsive and effective in minimising disruption.

4.3.6 Example Liaison Scenarios

- 4.3.6.1 The following scenarios provide illustrative examples of how fisheries liaison procedures will be implemented in practice during the Proposed Works Offshore. These scenarios are indicative only and may not occur, but are intended to demonstrate how communication and coordination with fisheries stakeholders will be managed.

Fishing Vessel Operating in the Vicinity of the Work Area

- 4.3.6.2 During Proposed Works Offshore activities, a fishing vessel is identified operating in proximity to the work area.
- 4.3.6.3 Liaison approach:
- The presence of Proposed Works Offshore activities will have been communicated in advance via NtM and direct liaison by the FLO;
 - The FLO and/or support vessel will establish communication with the fishing vessel via VHF radio;
 - The fishing vessel will be advised of:
 - the nature of the ongoing works;
 - the location of vessels and equipment; and
 - any temporary operational constraints;
 - The fishing vessel will retain responsibility for navigational decision-making, with information provided to support safe passage or continued fishing activity where practicable; and
 - Any issues or concerns raised will be communicated to the FLO for follow-up, if required.

Static Gear Located Within the Work Area

- 4.3.6.4 Static fishing gear (e.g. pots or creels) is identified within the work area at a time when Proposed Works Offshore are scheduled to take place.
- 4.3.6.5 Liaison approach:
- Advance notice of planned works will be provided to allow sufficient time for gear relocation where practicable;
 - The FLO will attempt to identify and contact the gear owner using available information;
 - Where appropriate, the FLO and/or support vessel may assist in identifying gear locations at sea;
 - The gear owner will be requested to relocate or remove gear from the immediate work area prior to commencement of activities;
 - Where gear relocation is required, this will be managed in line with the procedures set out in this FMMS; and
 - All interactions will be undertaken on a cooperative and evidence-based basis, consistent with Seafood / ORE guidance.

Unplanned Interaction or Navigational Concern

- 4.3.6.6 A fishing vessel raises a concern regarding vessel movements or perceived risk associated with Proposed Works Offshore.
- 4.3.6.7 Liaison approach:
- The concern will be communicated directly to the project vessel, or via the FLO;
 - Immediate clarification will be provided where possible (e.g. vessel movements, work scope, timing);
 - If required, the issue will be escalated to Arklow Energy Project Manager / Principal Decommissioning Contractor (i.e. person responsible for coordinating offshore vessel activities) and FLO;
 - Arklow Energy will take reasonable steps to address the concern, where practicable, including adjustment of communication or coordination measures; and

- The issue and outcome will be recorded as part of ongoing fisheries liaison records.

Dropped Object or Potential Fishing Hazard

4.3.6.8 An object is identified on the seabed that may pose a potential snagging risk to fishing gear.

4.3.6.9 Liaison approach:

- The location and nature of the object will be assessed;
- Where the object poses a risk to navigation or fishing activity, it will be communicated to the Irish Coast Guard, via a NtM and direct liaison with fisheries stakeholders;
- Recovery will be undertaken where practicable and appropriate;
- The FLO will communicate relevant information to fisheries stakeholders; and
- Updates will be provided following recovery or resolution.

General Enquiry from Fisheries Stakeholder

4.3.6.10 A fisher or fisheries organisation requests information regarding upcoming or ongoing Proposed Works Offshore activities.

4.3.6.11 Liaison approach:

- The enquiry will be directed to the FLO;
- The FLO will provide clear and timely information on:
 - planned activities;
 - timing and duration; and
 - any potential interactions with fishing activity;
- Where appropriate, follow-up engagement (e.g. phone call or meeting) will be offered directly involving Arklow Energy as required; and
- All enquiries will be recorded and tracked to ensure appropriate response.

5 FISHERIES MITIGATION

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1.1 It is the intention of Arklow Energy to facilitate coexistence, wherever practicable, during the Proposed Works Offshore. This will include the implementation of proportionate mitigation measures to minimise interactions between Proposed Works Offshore activities and commercial fishing operations.
- 5.1.1.2 This section of the document presents measures, in addition to fisheries liaison (see Section 4), that will be implemented by the Applicant to minimise disruption and support coexistence between the Proposed Works Offshore and fishing activity.
- 5.1.1.3 Mitigation measures are structured in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy and comprise:
- Embedded mitigation, which forms part of the design and standard execution of the Proposed Works Offshore and has been taken into account within the commercial fisheries impact assessment; and
 - Additional mitigation, which may be implemented where residual significant effects (in EIA terms) are identified, in order to further reduce impacts on specific fisheries receptors.

5.2 Principles of Mitigation

- 5.2.1.1 Arklow Energy will adhere to the following principles of mitigation. These principles are aligned with the NMPF and relevant industry guidance, including the Seafood / ORE Working Group (2023), and reflect established good practice within the offshore sector:
- Arklow Energy will implement measures to reduce and mitigate as far as practicable, potential impacts to commercial fishers during the lifetime of the Proposed Works Offshore;
 - Mitigation measures will be proportionate to the scale, duration and nature of the Proposed Works Offshore, avoiding unnecessary restriction of fishing activity;
 - Active work areas will be kept to the minimum spatial extent and duration required to safely undertake operations;
 - All vessels will operate in accordance with relevant safety standards and good seamanship practices, ensuring awareness of other marine users at all times. Vessels employed by Arklow Energy will only undertake activities prescribed in their line of work;
 - Arklow Energy will maintain clear and effective communication channels between project vessels and fishing vessels, including through the FLO and, where deployed, support vessels, to support informed decision-making and minimise disruption (see **Section 1** for detail).
 - Arklow Energy will implement a transparent and proportionate process for managing claims relating to loss of or damage to fishing gear, where it can be demonstrated that such loss or damage is attributable to the Proposed Works Offshore.

5.3 Embedded Mitigation Measures

5.3.1 Overview

- 5.3.1.1 Embedded mitigation comprises measures that are inherent to the design and execution of the Proposed Works Offshore and are implemented as standard practice. These measures have been taken into account within the assessment of impacts presented in **Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture of the EIAR**.
- 5.3.1.2 Embedded mitigation includes:
- measures incorporated into the design and methodology of the Proposed Works Offshore; and

- standard good industry practices and regulatory requirements that are implemented during offshore operations irrespective of the EIA process.

5.3.1.3 The embedded mitigation measures relevant to commercial fisheries and aquaculture are as follows:

- Development and implementation of the Detailed Offshore DEMP (see outline version in **Volume 2, Appendix 3.4**), which establishes the overarching framework for environmental management and mitigation during the Proposed Works Offshore;
- Development and implementation of the Detailed VMP (see outline version in **Volume 2, Appendix 3.5**), which define procedures for managing vessel activity and minimising disturbance to the marine environment;
- Development and implementation of this FMMS, which establishes procedures for fisheries liaison and management of interactions with commercial fishing activity;
- Development and implementation of the Detailed LMP (see outline version in **Volume 2, Appendix 3.7**), ensuring appropriate marking of offshore activities in accordance with relevant standards and requirements; and
- Development and implementation of the Detailed Offshore WMP (see outline version in **Volume 2, Appendix 3.8**), which provides a framework for the management of waste arising from the Proposed Works Offshore in accordance with legislative requirements and best practice.

5.3.1.4 These plans provide the mechanism through which embedded (and additional mitigation where relevant) measures are implemented.

5.3.2 Other Good Practice Measures

5.3.2.1 This FMMS confirms that Arklow Energy is committed to employing industry standard good practice measures during the Proposed Works Offshore. These are set out below and considered to be embedded measures.

Contracted Vessels Requirements

5.3.2.2 When Arklow Energy appoints contractors, these will be contractually required to follow a code of good practice to ensure any external communication to other marine users, including fishers, is accurate, and to aid coexistence with the fishing industry. This will include the following considerations:

- All vessels under contract for the Proposed Works Offshore will comply with the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS);
- Vessels will not engage in any commercial or recreational fishing activities while undertaking decommissioning works;
- All vessels will maintain proactive, professional and cooperative communication with fishing vessels during offshore operations;
- Vessels will continuously monitor relevant VHF channels to enable direct communication with fishing vessels;
- Vessels will operate at appropriate transit speeds, maintain a lookout at all times, and exercise particular caution during periods of reduced visibility or night working; and
- Contractors will undertake appropriate risk assessments in respect of potential interactions with commercial fishing vessels and their gear prior to commencing offshore activities.

Works Areas

5.3.2.3 Proposed Works Offshore activities will be undertaken within defined work areas, established to support safe operations. These work areas will be temporary.

5.3.2.4 The Sub Lease Area will be marked with appropriate buoyage in accordance with the Lighting and Marking Plan. In addition, certain activities, such as offshore export cable removal, will

involve a moving work area, the extent of which will be defined by operational requirements and risk assessment.

- 5.3.2.5 Project vessels will maintain awareness of surrounding marine traffic, and where fishing or other vessels are identified approaching an active work area, communication will be established (e.g. via VHF) to provide information on ongoing operations and to advise on safe distances, as appropriate.
- 5.3.2.6 Details of work areas and ongoing operations will be communicated to marine users through NtMs and fisheries liaison.

Dropped Objects and Seabed Hazards

- 5.3.2.7 Any objects accidentally dropped to the seabed during Proposed Works Offshore will be subject to an appropriate reporting and management procedure.
- 5.3.2.8 In the event of a dropped object:
 - The location, nature and potential risk of the object will be assessed as soon as practicable;
 - Where the object poses, or may pose, a risk to navigation or fishing activity, the Irish Coast Guard will be notified without delay;
 - A NtM will be issued, where appropriate, to inform other marine users of the location and nature of the hazard;
 - Relevant regulatory authorities will be informed in accordance with any applicable consent conditions and reporting requirements; and
 - The object will be recovered where practicable, particularly where it presents a snagging or navigational hazard.
- 5.3.2.9 The FLO will ensure that relevant information is communicated to fisheries stakeholders in a timely manner, including updates on any recovery operations.
- 5.3.2.10 Post-decommissioning surveys will be undertaken to confirm the final status of the seabed following completion of the Proposed Works Offshore. This will include verification of infrastructure removal and identification of any residual seabed features that could present a potential interaction risk to fishing activity.

Procedures for Fishing Gear Fastening or Loss

- 5.3.2.11 In the event that fishing gear becomes fastened or interaction with the Proposed Works Offshore is suspected, the following good practice guidance will be communicated to fishers, reflecting recognised industry guidance (e.g. KIS-ORCA website, 2026):
 - If the fastened gear is not easily retrieved, fishers should not apply excessive winch, line or net hauler loads or engine powers in attempts to retrieve fastened gear;
 - Fishing vessel should advise the Irish Coastguard, giving an accurate position of the vessel and/or lost gear;
 - If the coastguard confirms that the vessel is in the immediate vicinity of a cable, serious consideration will be given to the slipping of the gear and buoying and recording its position;
 - After buoying off the gear, the position should be confirmed with the coastguard and the FLO;
 - On no account should skippers grapple in an attempt to recover fishing gear lost or cut away in the vicinity of the export cables; and
 - Claims for loss of gear should be made as soon as possible.
- 5.3.2.12 The following claims procedure will be implemented by Arklow Energy in relation to claims for damage or loss of fishing gear, loss of fishing time, or damage to vessels associated with Proposed Works Offshore activities.
- 5.3.2.13 The following steps should be followed for making a claim for damage or loss of fishing gear:

- All details of the incident should be recorded in the vessels' logbook as soon as the situation is made safe. Date, time and location of the occurrence and description of the gear lost, or the damage sustained;
- A record of the vessel position/course for 12 hours before and 12 hours after working the damaged or lost gear;
- Provide time stamped photographs of damaged gear if possible;
- Upon return to port the skipper should report the incident to the FLO; and
- The FLO should be notified of any claim relating to the incident as soon as possible but within 5 days at the latest.

- 5.3.2.14 Once the FLO has been informed of the incident, the FLO will provide a gear loss or damage claim form to the fisherman. The fisherman will be asked to complete the fishing gear loss or damage claim form which will provide the relevant details for assessment of the likely cause of the loss of or damage to the gear, the value of the lost or damaged fishing gear and any subsequent loss of earnings which were incurred as a result of the incident.
- 5.3.2.15 Once completed, the fishing gear loss or damage claim form should be sent to the FLO as soon as possible after the incident. This should be supported with photographs of the damaged fishing gear, evidence of the earnings from fishing at the time of the incident, and a quote for the cost of repair or replacement of the gear, whether undertaken by a third-party or by the vessel's crew.
- 5.3.2.16 Following the receipt of this fishing gear loss or damage claim form, the Applicant will review the information provided and carry out appropriate further investigations. The Applicant will respond to the claim via their FLO as soon as possible.
- 5.3.2.17 Claims for loss or damage to fishing gear will not be considered where a skipper of a vessel has ignored notices, support vessel communications, NtM, FLO communications, or in any other circumstances where the damage to or loss of the gear is as a result of the neglect or default of the skipper of a vessel.

Procedures for Fishing Gear Relocation or Removal

- 5.3.2.18 Where fishing gear is identified within a work area associated with the Proposed Works Offshore:
- Advance notice of planned activities will be provided, where practicable, through NtMs and direct liaison;
 - Arklow Energy will seek to identify and engage with the gear owner through the FLO;
 - The gear owner will be requested to relocate or remove gear from the active work area prior to commencement of activities, where practicable;
 - Sufficient notice will be provided to allow for relocation, taking account of the nature and timing of fishing activity; and
 - Interactions will be managed on a cooperative and evidence-based basis, consistent with industry guidance.
- 5.3.2.19 Where gear relocation or removal results in reasonable and evidenced costs, these may be addressed through appropriate arrangements with Arklow Energy, including where relevant through Cooperation Agreements (see **Section 5.4.2**).

5.4 Additional Mitigation Measures

5.4.1 Overview

- 5.4.1.1 As identified in **Volume 2, Chapter 6: Commercial Fisheries and Aquaculture** of the EIAR, potential impacts to commercial fisheries (notably the Irish potting fleet) were assessed as moderate adverse prior to mitigation. The mitigation measures set out in this section are designed to reduce these impacts to a level that is not significant in EIA terms.

5.4.2 Cooperation Agreements

Rationale for the Application of Cooperation Agreements

- 5.4.2.1 Arklow Energy will consider use of Cooperation Agreements in instances where vessels from the Irish potting fleet may be required to be temporarily relocate or remove static fishing gear as a result of decommissioning activity along the offshore export cable route.
- 5.4.2.2 Cooperation Agreements (also referred to as disruption agreements) are formal agreements between Arklow Energy and individual fishers which may be used to mitigate temporary and justifiable disturbance arising from the Proposed Works Offshore, including loss of access to fishing grounds during decommissioning activities.
- 5.4.2.3 Such agreements may include financial compensation, where it can be demonstrated that fishing activity has been directly affected by the Proposed Works Offshore, resulting in evidenced economic loss. Cooperation Agreements are widely recognised as an appropriate and pragmatic mechanism for addressing short-term, localised disruption, for static gear fisheries.
- 5.4.2.4 Where Cooperation Agreements are considered appropriate, this section sets out the principles and procedures that will be followed in their application. Arklow Energy will implement an established evidence-based disruption payment process, consistent with industry good practice.
- 5.4.2.5 Cooperation Agreements will be implemented as a measure of last resort, where residual impacts persist following the application of embedded mitigation measures. Agreements will be based on a clear and proportionate evidence base and will set out the arrangements between the Applicant and the affected fisher during the Proposed Works Offshore. Where appropriate, Cooperation Agreements may include a mechanism for payments designed to ensure that affected fishers are neither financially disadvantaged nor advantaged as a result of the Proposed Works Offshore.
- 5.4.2.6 Payments under Cooperation Agreements will be considered only where justifiable financial losses can be demonstrated. Fishers will be required to provide appropriate evidence to support any claim, which may include information on fishing activity, landings, gear, and associated costs. Claims will be assessed on an individual basis, ensuring that compensation is proportionate and reflective of evidenced loss. Arklow Energy will not enter into association-wide agreements, and payments will be limited to those directly affected.
- 5.4.2.7 Arklow Energy will offer support and guidance to all claimants throughout the process where necessary and will do everything possible to reach a fair agreement. In the instance that fair agreement is not reached, the Developer commits to following Guidance on Dispute Resolution developed by the Seafood / ORE Working Group (2024). This includes use of the Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM) defined by the Seafood / ORE Working Group (2024) as a voluntary mediation process, which offers a timely and cost-effective means of resolving disputes. The DRM involves a number of steps to reach resolution, including a mediation process and the appointment of an impartial and neutral mediator.

Procedure for a Cooperation Agreement

- 5.4.2.8 Where a Cooperation Agreement is considered appropriate, claims for disruption or financial loss will be assessed in accordance with the following principles:
 - Claims will only be considered where financial losses are directly attributable to the Proposed Works Offshore;
 - A clear causal link must be demonstrated between the Proposed Works Offshore and the claimed loss (e.g. temporary loss of access to fishing grounds or disruption to normal fishing activity);
 - Claims must be reasonable, proportionate and supported by evidence of economic loss;
 - Sufficient information must be provided to enable Arklow Energy to assess the validity of the claim; and
 - Payments will only be made where fishing activity is undertaken in accordance with applicable fisheries legislation, including valid vessel licensing and entitlements.

Evidence Base Requirements

- 5.4.2.9 Claims submitted under a Cooperation Agreement will be supported by an appropriate and proportionate evidence base, sufficient to demonstrate:
- Active fishing activity within the area affected by the Proposed Works Offshore; and
 - The nature and extent of any associated economic loss.
- 5.4.2.10 The evidence base may include, where available and appropriate:
- Copy of certificate of registry for each vessel for which a claim is being made;
 - Copy of the relevant vessel fishing licences and entitlements;
 - Copy of Marine Survey Office (MSO) safety certificate or relevant code of practice;
 - Sight of vessels' fishing charts or Global Positioning System plotter records to provide clear historic evidence of potential disruption in the area of the operations. Alternatively, where such data is not attainable, provide annotated admiralty charts indicating areas fished, this may be undertaken with assistance from the FLO who will provide graphics and work with the claimant to understand the areas fished;
 - Evidence of monthly sales notes for the three-year time period prior to the claim;
 - Annual fishing accounts of the vessels concerned for a three-year time period or equivalent evidence of annual earnings (e.g. self-assessment tax return); and
 - Monthly fishing vessel landings data or and/or fisheries landings data held by fisheries authorities (requiring declaration from vessel owner for release of individual records).
- 5.4.2.11 The purpose of the evidence base is to demonstrate the extent of interaction with the Proposed Works Offshore and the associated economic effect, enabling fair and transparent assessment of claims.
- 5.4.2.12 Arklow Energy will adopt a proportionate and pragmatic approach to the assessment of evidence, recognising that the availability and format of data may vary between fisheries and vessel types. There is some flexibility in the level of evidence provided, depending on what is available to the claimant. If the claimant believes they will suffer loss, but do not have all aspects required under the evidence base, the FLO can provide advice more tailored to the claimant's specific circumstances in order to assist the claimant in submitting a claim.
- 5.4.2.13 All evidence will be treated in the strictest confidence under the relevant data protection procedures.

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