



## **APPENDIX 13-1**

**ASSESSMENT OF DATA OF  
NEPHROPS FISHING DATA**



**Fishery  
Liaisons  
Ltd**  
Marine consultants

## FST OEC TRAWLING ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

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# **FST OEC Trawling Activity Report**

## **Introduction:**

The Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm (the Project) is a proposed offshore wind project, located off the Connemara coast in County Galway, that aims to power communities using clean and renewable energy.

Once completed, the Project will provide enough reliable and affordable electricity to power more than 350,000 homes. The Project will help Ireland to achieve its goal of generating 80% of energy through renewable sources by 2030.

Fishery Liaisons has engaged with various segments of the fishing industry on behalf of the Project which includes but is not limited to the following:

- Inshore Potters
- Offshore Potters
- Bi-valve fisheries
- Trawling Interests
- Local Harbour Masters
- Vessel Owners
- Regional forums
- National Organisations

## **Purpose Of Report**

The purpose of this report is to undertake a detailed assessment, using the best available information, of demersal trawling activity across the area known as Functional unit 17 or the Island Grounds.

An assessment of bottom trawling activity in the vicinity of the Project's Offshore Export Cable has been undertaken to ascertain the current and historical levels of fishing activity in order to mitigate any adverse impact to the local fishing fleet in the area as well as visiting vessels from other parts of the coast. This assessment involves a desktop exercise looking at various data streams that for the most part are publicly available. The assessment includes consideration of factors such as fishing intensity, gear type, and location of trawling activities.

This scope of work will also assist in informing the Project Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy (FMMS) going forward.

## **Process**

The process undertaken took into consideration all available data, such as VMS, AIS, ICES and Landings, etc. The data supplied in this report is indicative and should be used as a guideline.

Marine institute (anonymised) VMS data was examined in detail to cross reference the hours effort which showed a marginal difference in hours effort, this is presumed to be as a result of differing algorithms in use for separating fishing vessel travel as opposed to actual fishing effort.

## **The Activity**

The activity levels obtained from the data sources are broken into years and matched with the landing figures for the closest major fisheries harbour which is Ros A Mhil. The hours that each vessel listed as active within the defined areas is shown in the table for each year. These are the only vessels that the data indicates were fishing in the Broad Area for each year shown.

## FST OEC Trawling Activity Report

The relevant areas defining the evolution of the Project Offshore Export Cable route area of interest are shown in the map below, Figure 1-1. The **Broad Area** identifies a wide area within which it was initially considered that the Offshore Export Cable (OEC) would be located and represents a width of approximately 5 km. The **Offshore Export Cable Corridor** (OECC) further refines the Broad Area and represents the area that was surveyed and assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report within which the OEC will be located. The OECC is approximately 1 km wide for the most part. The **Offshore Export Cable** is the planned route of the offshore export cable and represents the up to 20 m wide corridor that could be directly affected by the installation of the OEC.



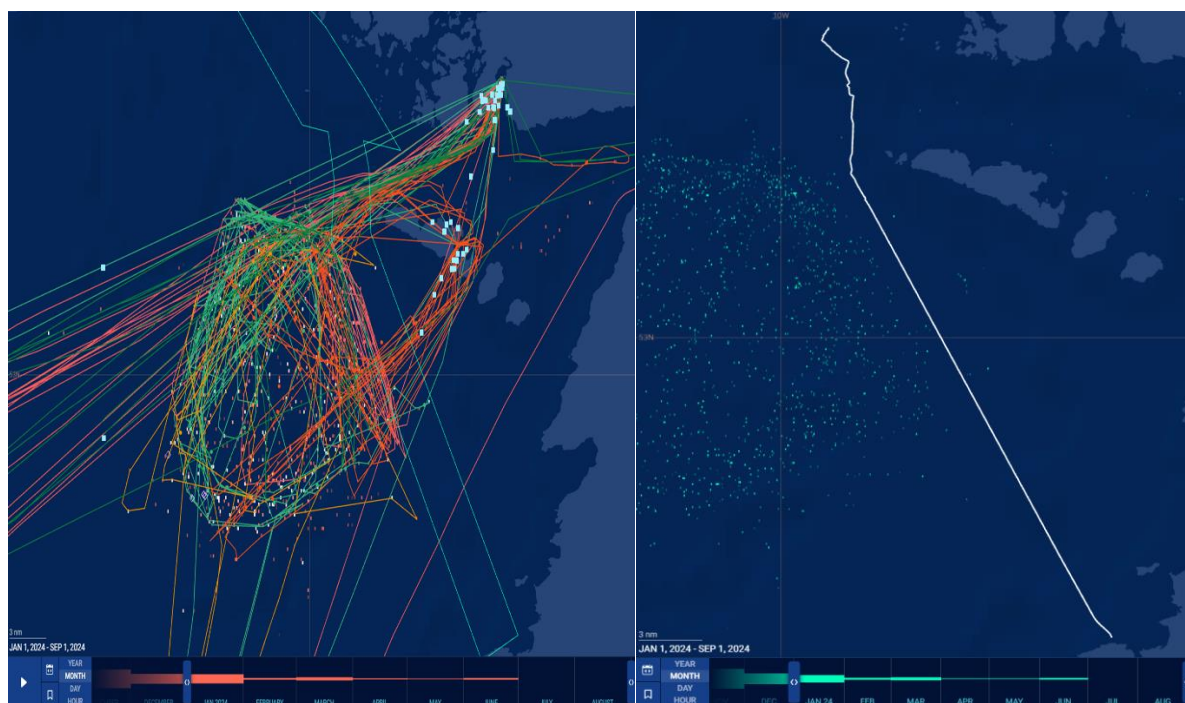
**Figure 1-1 - Position of OEC, OECC and Broad Area relative to analysed trawler activity**

# FST OEC Trawling Activity Report

## 2024 Trawler Activity

The table below represents the total number of hours of fishing activity for each vessel which data indicates was undertaking fishing activity within the Broad Area, OECC and OEC between January and June 2024.

Vessel	Hours inside Broad Area	Hours inside OECC	Hours inside OEC
NAUSICAA	26.57	0	0
HANNAH J	13.48	0	0
LOURS DES MERS	12.46	0	0
AMBITIOUS	7.78	0	0
STELLA NOVA	4.10	0	0
F/V MELISANDRE	2.78	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



**Figure 1-2 – Trawler Fishing Activity 2024 (up to June 2024)**

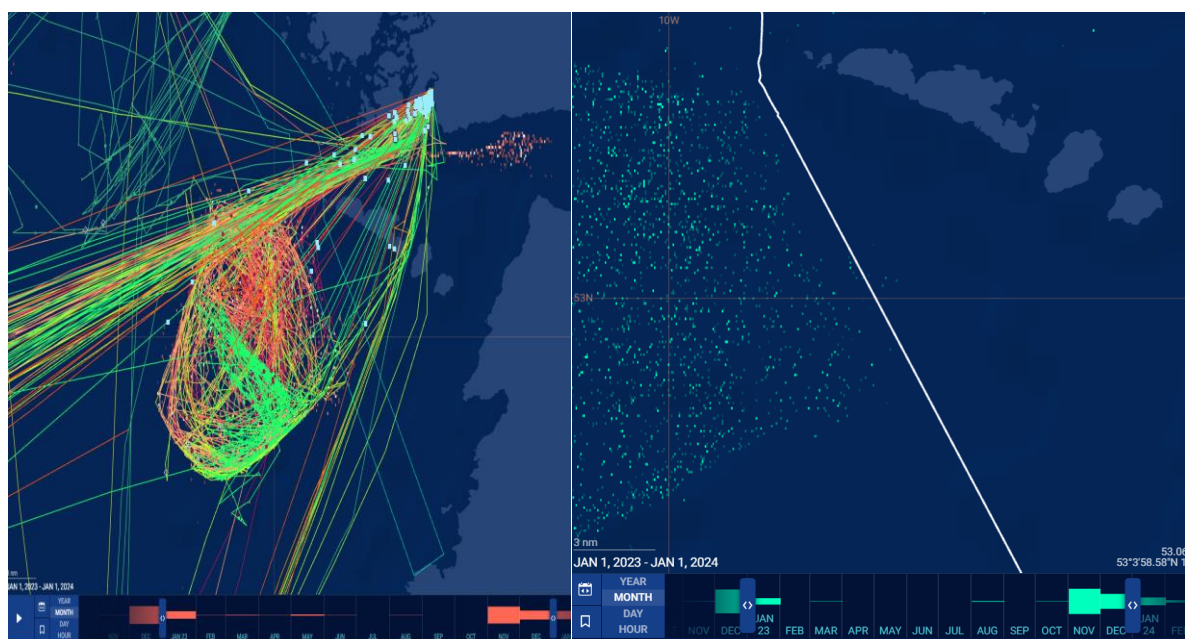
For the year to date (Jan to Jun) in 2024 were a total of approximately **67 hours** of trawling activity inside the Broad Area carried out by 6 bottom trawlers (see image on left). There were **0 hours** of fishing activity recorded within the **OECC** or the **OEC** in that period (see image on right). The peak period in 2024 so far has been confirmed as January.

# FST OEC Trawling Activity Report

## 2023 Trawler Activity

The table below represents the total number of hours of fishing activity for each vessel which data indicates was undertaking fishing activity within the Broad Area in 2023.

Vessel	Hours inside Broad Area	Hours inside OECC	Hours inside OEC
NAUSICAA	48.15	0	0
AMBITIOUS	33.35	0	0
MARGARET MARY	7.99	0	0
ETERNAL DAWN	7.20	0	0
AMBITIOUS 2	3.16	0	0
STELLA NOVA	2.33	0	0
MELLIFONT	1.05	0	0
INDEPENDENCE	0.94	0	0
HANNAH J	0.37	0	0
TEMPO	0.14	0	0
F/V TIGER`S 2	0.03	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>104.71</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



**Figure 1-3 – Trawler Fishing Activity 2023**

For the year 2023 there were a total of approximately **105 hours** of trawling activity inside the **Broad Area** carried out by 11 bottom trawlers (see image on left). There were **0 hours** of fishing activity recorded within the **OECC or the OEC** in that period (see image on right). The peak period in 2023 has been confirmed as December.

# FST OEC Trawling Activity Report

## 2022 Trawler Activity

The table below represents the total number of hours of fishing activity for each vessel which data indicates was undertaking fishing activity within the Broad Area, OECC and OEC in 2022.

Vessel	Hours inside Broad Area	Hours inside OECC	Hours inside OEC
AMBITIOUS	31.04	0	0
THE BOY CONOR	17.88	0	0
RESILIENT	15.36	0	0
MARY PAUL	9.17	0	0
CELTIC ORIEL	8.42	0	0
ENDURANCE	8.21	0	0
CELTIC MIST	7.35	0	0
F/V CELTIC-WARRIOR 2	5.69	0	0
ARKH ANGELL	5.65	0	0
CONQUEST	4.13	0	0
STELLA NOVA	3.07	0	0
OILEAN AN OIR	3.05	0	0
CELTIC CHIEFTAIN	2.89	0	0
PATRICK C	1.91	0	0
F/V BREIZH ARVOR II	1.90	0	0
HANNAH J	1.51	0	0
F/V SAINT ROSA	1.39	0	0
AMBITIOUS 2	1.17	0	0
ARMAVEN TRES	0.90	0	0
FV/AUDACIOUS	0.51	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>131.20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

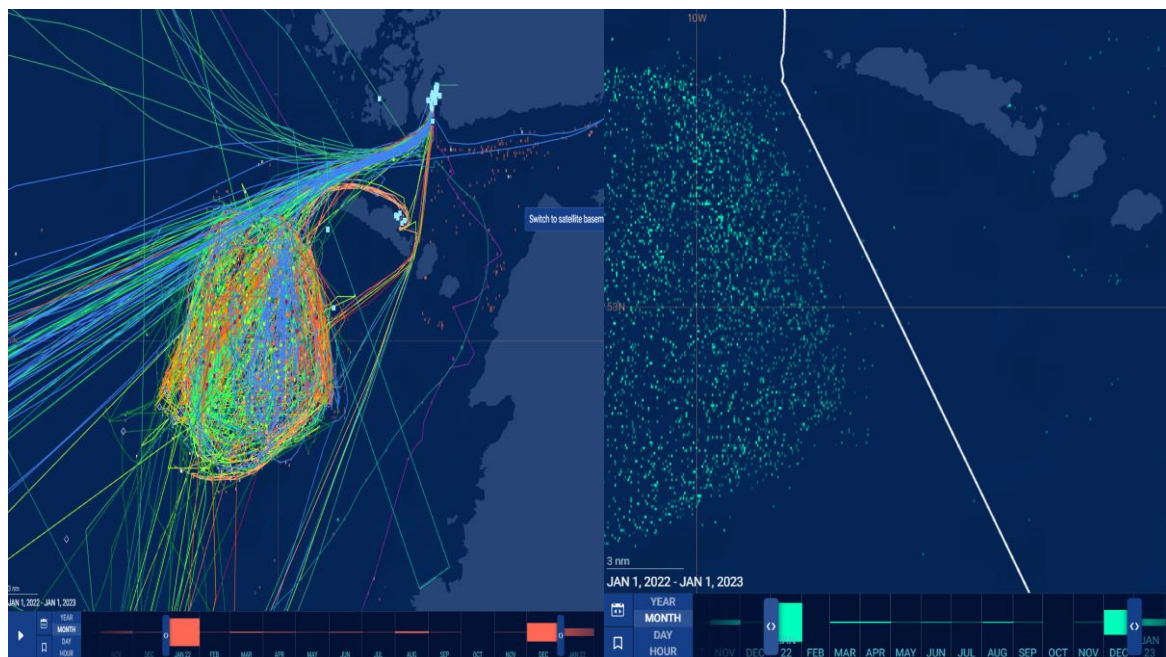


Figure 1-4 – Trawler Fishing Activity 2022

## FST OEC Trawling Activity Report

For the year 2022 there were a total of approximately **131 hours** of trawling activity inside the **Broad Area** carried out by 20 bottom trawlers (see image on left). There were **0 hours** of fishing activity recorded within the **OECC or the OEC** in that period (see image on right). The peak period in 2022 has been confirmed as December.



## FST OEC Trawling Activity Report

### 2021 Trawler Activity

The table below represents the total number of hours of fishing activity for each vessel which data indicates was undertaking fishing activity within the Broad Area, OECC and OEC in 2021.

Vessel	Hours Inside Broad Area	Hours Inside OECC	Hours Inside OEC
KITTIWAKE	79.64	8	0
AMBITIOUS	28.92	3.5	0
NAUSICAA	18.16	2.17	0
HANNAH J	7.51	0	0
DEARBHLA	7.42	0	0
MARIA MAGDALENA 3	6.00	1.22	0
EMERALD SHORE	5.45	0	0
F/V BREIZH ARVOR II	5.085	0	0
OCEAN BREEZE	4.91	0	0
THE BOY CONOR	4.48	0	0
CONQUEST	4.33	0	0
COURAGEOUS	3.20	0	0
FRAGRANT CLOUD	2.65	0	0
CELTIC ORIEL	2.36	0	0
CELTIC CHIEFTAIN	2.30	0	0
SAUVEUR DU MONDE	1.46	0	0
ST JEAN BAPTISTE	0.29	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>184.17</b>	<b>14.89</b>	<b>0</b>

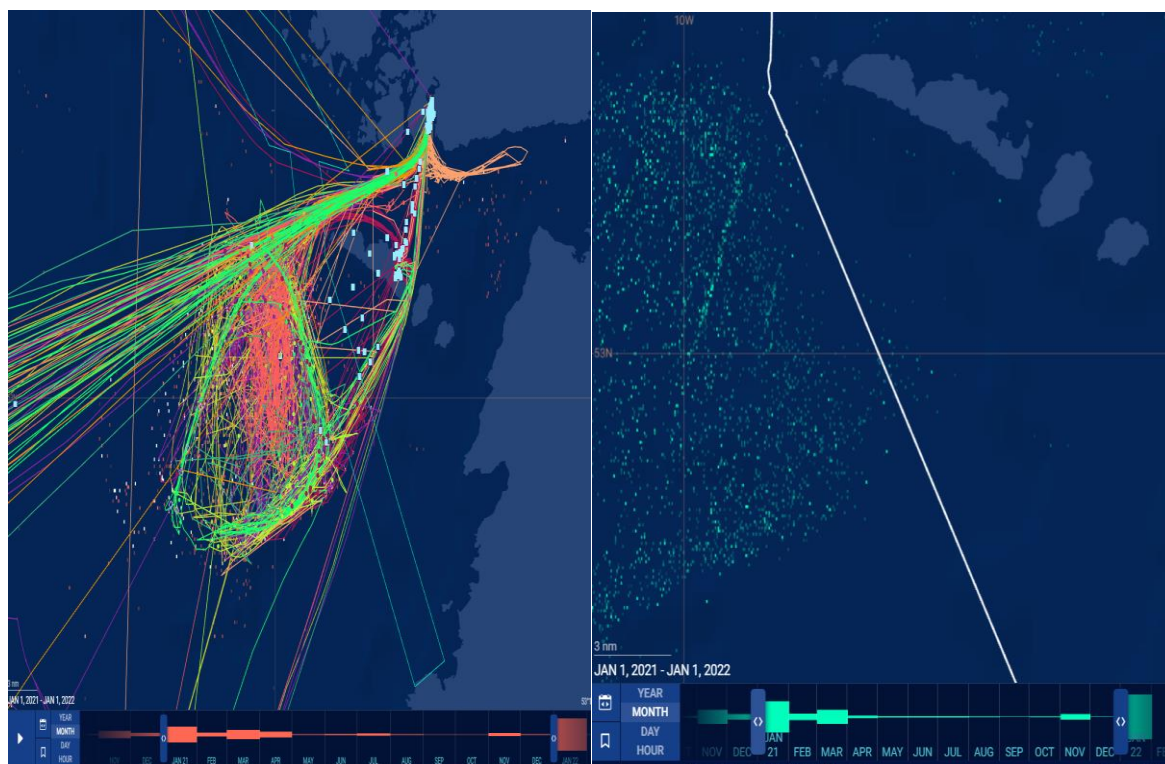


Figure 1-5 – Trawler Fishing Activity 2021

## FST OEC Trawling Activity Report

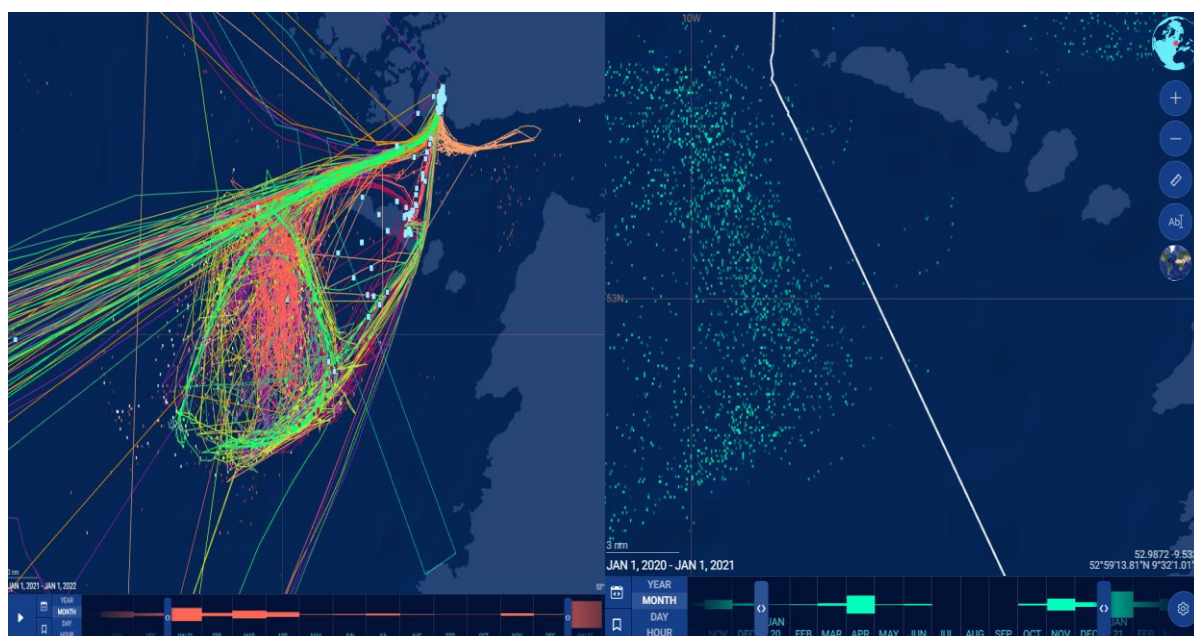
For the year 2021 there were a total of approximately **187 hours** of trawling activity inside the **Broad Area** carried out by 17 bottom trawlers (see image on left). There were approximately **15 hours** of trawling activity recorded within the **OECC** and there were **0 hours** of fishing activity recorded within the **OEC** in that period (see image on right). The peak period in 2021 has been confirmed as January.

# FST OEC Trawling Activity Report

## 2020 Trawler Activity

The table below represents the total number of hours of fishing activity for each vessel which data indicates was undertaking fishing activity within the Broad Area, OECC and the OEC in 2020.

Vessel	Hours inside Broad Area	Hours inside OECC	Hours inside OEC
TEMPO	78.41	6.97	0
AMBITIOUS	29.39	3.74	0
CONQUEST	18.17	0.69	0
EMERALD SHORE	7.51	3.79	0
KITTIWAKE	7.42	2.09	0
DEARBHLA	6.93	0	0
HANNAH J	6.50	0	0
FRAGRANT CLOUD	5.46	1.95	0
HANNAH J	5.09	1.22	0
PRINS BERNHARD	4.91	0	0
PATRICK C	4.48	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>174.27</b>	<b>20.45</b>	<b>0</b>



**Figure 1-6 – Trawler Fishing Activity 2020**

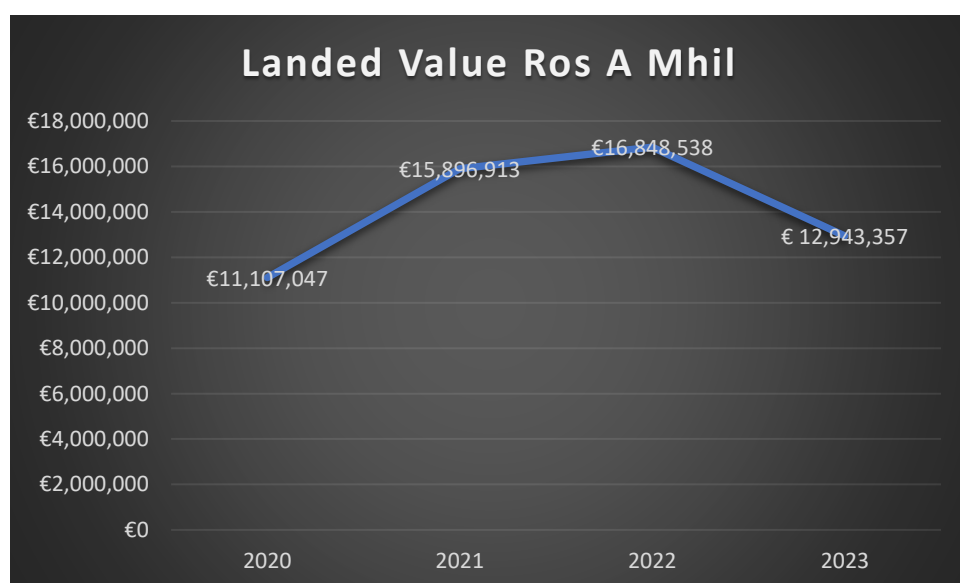
For the year 2020 there were a total of approximately **174 hours** of trawling activity inside the **Broad Area** carried out by 11 bottom trawlers (see image on left). There were approximately **20 hours** of trawling activity recorded within the **OECC** and there were **0 hours** of fishing activity recorded within the **OEC** in that period (see image on right). The peak period in 2020 has been confirmed as March.

## FST OEC Trawling Activity Report

### Landings Value (2020 to 2023)

Landings have been looked at in the national and regional context, it was decided with Ros A Mhil being the closest major designated landing port that the figures would be looked at for this port.

LandingsYear	Value
2020	€11,107,047
2021	€15,896,913
2022	€16,848,538
2023	€ 12,943,357



VMS data that informed the [Atlas of Commercial Fisheries around Ireland, fourth edition](#) was used to develop a score that has been applied to the core Nephrops Grounds in the area of the proposed export cable corridor, see below map.

