

Date: 19/06/2025

Our Ref: 2025_5_13-594

To whomever it may concern,

Norfolk Vanguard OWF - Non-Material Change Request

1.1 Role of Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (Eastern IFCA)

The role of Eastern IFCA is “to lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries” in the context of our main duties¹ within our district, which extends from the Humber to Harwich, and six nautical miles out to sea. To achieve this, Eastern IFCA gathers and analyses fisheries and environmental information, including through dialogue with our stakeholders, catch returns and research, to inform management decisions.

The project/proposal has the potential to impact fishing opportunities within the Eastern IFCA district. Eastern IFCA may have expertise relevant to the proposal and an interest in the application, and it is therefore considered appropriate for Eastern IFCA to provide comment on the request.

1.2 Eastern IFCA's role in responding to consultations

Eastern IFCA reviews consultation documentation and will seek to advise on potential interactions between fishing activity and the environment, the potential implications of these interactions and the effectiveness of mitigation proposed within the application as appropriate. We will also seek to identify, where possible, relevant stakeholders who may be impacted by the application.

2. Eastern IFCA's Response

Eastern IFCA agrees that the proposed wording is sufficient to achieve its intended purpose and acknowledge the necessity of the revision, given the inability of the proposed marine debris removal programme to fulfil the intended compensatory requirement. The proposed changes would secure that, where a contribution to the Marine Recovery Fund (MRF) is confirmed as an adaptive management measure, this must either be made or legally committed before cable installation activities within the Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton (HHW) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) may commence. However, reliance on the MRF implies that the compensatory measures may encompass actions that are not aligned with the Authority's established position, which is as follows:

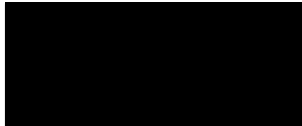
Eastern IFCA will actively engage in exploring opportunities for environmental compensatory measures but will not support measures that will have an overall

¹ S.153 & 154 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (c.23).

adverse impact upon fishing activities and opportunities (agreed at the 41st Eastern IFCA Meeting held on 9 September 2020).

Furthermore, the extent to which the Authority can contribute to the development of measures under the MRF is likely to be diminished compared to its role as a member of the Benthic Steering Group (BSG) in evaluating the current measures.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Marine Science Officer.A small black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the Marine Science Officer.

Marine Science Officer
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority