



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

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25 April 2025

Your reference: EN010119

Dear Sir/Madam

Application by North Falls Offshore Wind Farm Limited (Ltd) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the North Falls Offshore Wind Farm.

Post Hearing Submission – information requested at Issue Specific Hearing 2

I am writing in response to requests for further information during the Issue Specific Hearing 2 on 9 April 2025 under Agenda Item 3.4 Navigation and Shipping. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) would like to provide the below information:

1. App 107 [Navigation Risk Assessment] presents the impact on routes 10 and 42 in Table 14.3, deviation summary within study area and table 14.4 Cumulative Routing Summary.
 - a. Could the MCA advise for routes 10 and 42, what would be the level of interference with the use of recognised sea lanes essential to international navigation?
 - b. Are there any additional mitigation measures and or safeguards or approvals are necessary to include project alone, and cumulative effects for risks to navigation or safety for the deviations necessary?
 - a. Vessels transiting on routes 10 and 42 are not using the Traffic Separation Schemes in the Sunk area. They would deviate further south to ensure a safe clearance distance from the North Falls wind farm and it would not interfere with the use of recognized sea lanes essential to international navigation.
 - b. MCA is content with the list of mitigation measures and specific additional measures for the deviation of routes 10 and 42 is not required.
2. **Removal of the Galloper Recommended Route - Request for draft wording for the DCO/DML**

MCA would like to suggest the following wording:

Offshore construction activity may not commence until confirmation has been received in writing from MCA that the removal of the Galloper Recommended Route has been approved by the International Maritime Organization.

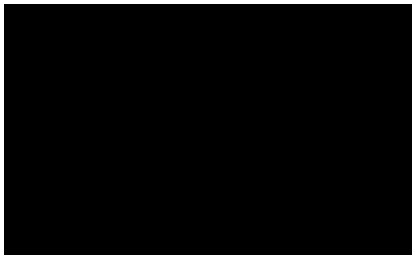
3. Process for submitting proposals to UK Safety of Navigation Committee (UKSON) and International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Assuming the project receives Ministerial consent in Q1 2026, the process for gaining approvals from the UKSON and IMO is as follows:

- a. A proposal to remove the Galloper Recommended Route (RR) will be presented by MCA to the UK Safety of Navigation Committee (UKSON) at the next scheduled meeting, expected to be in March/April 2026. MCA will use the assessments completed by the applicant to date as a basis for the proposal, including the Formal Safety Assessment Removal of the Galloper Recommended Ferry Route paper by Anatec dated 25/11/24.
- b. Assuming agreement by UKSON members, a joint proposal from UK (lead by DfT/MCA) and Belgium will be submitted to the secretariat of the annual Experts Group on Ships Routing at the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) sub-committee on Navigation, Communication and Search and Rescue 14 (NCSR) six months (December 2026), in advance of the meeting in May/June 2027. This is in accordance with the published IMO procedure detailed in MSC.1/Circ.1608. This allows IMO Members sufficient time to review the proposal before the NCSR sub-committee meeting. Due to the timing of the expected consent decision it will not be possible to submit the proposal for the earlier NCSR sub-committee in May/June 2026.
- c. Assuming the Experts Group agrees to the removal of the RR i.e. no objections from any IMO member, the proposal will be submitted to the subsequent Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) 114 for ratification, expected in May 2028.
- d. Once accepted by MSC the removal of the Recommended Route will be in force within 4-6 months.

During ISH2 the applicant suggested that MCA can submit proposals to the IMO in advance of December 2026. MCA's position is that a proposal will not be submitted to IMO if it does not have the guarantee of Ministerial consent. NCSR meetings are held annually and proposals must be sent six months in advance for review. Proposals could be submitted prior to December 2026 however it will not be discussed between IMO members earlier than the NCSR meeting in May/June 2027, therefore it will not change the expected timeframe for gaining approval to remove the RR.

Yours faithfully,



Offshore Renewables Lead
UK Technical Services Navigation