

To the Examiner,

Please see below response from the NFFO to the questions raised during the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1).

#### [CF.1.3. Alternative Fishing Grounds](#)

It is difficult to provide evidence of alternative fishing grounds and quantify economic return as fisheries are currently experiencing continued displacement in the Dogger Bank region due to the introduction of the Dogger Bank SAC (excluding mobile gear fisheries) and the development of all Dogger Bank offshore wind projects. Fisheries are facing a shifting baseline scenario that is difficult to quantify. It would be expected to see fisheries displaced to the north, as to the south there is the Hornsea Zone projects, however the Crown Estates has highlighted new areas of opportunity for offshore wind to the north and west of the Dogger Bank zone that may prevent this displacement. It is not yet known where fisheries will be displaced to due to extensive spatial constraints in the Central North Sea.

#### [CF.1.10 Alternative Dispute Resolution](#)

This question is beyond the scope of the expertise within the NFFO to comment.

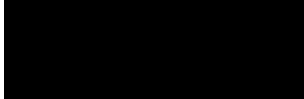
#### [CF1.11 Cumulative effect](#)

We do not agree with the position of the applicant. The dominant fishing gear type overlapping the array area is static gear. Whilst there is limited evidence of static gear fisheries continuing to fish in wind farms post construction, this is not the case for every development. Environmental factors such as tidal conditions and prevailing wind direction alongside turbine distance and orientation are key factors on whether a fisher deems it safe to fish inside a wind farm. There are also concerns on the potential exposure of cables post construction that may pose a severe risk to all commercial

fishery types. We have yet to see conclusive evidence of the "return to fish" scenario proposed by the applicant that de-mitigates the operational phase. Monitoring of fishing activity post-construction would help understand if the position of the applicant is correct (this has been suggested and approved for other Round 4 sites).

If you require further discussion on the responses or have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,



Mike Roach

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

On behalf of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations