

Date: 18 December 2025
Our Ref: 2025_12_12-656

Dear Sir or Madam,

Project/proposal

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by GT R4 Limited (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm (“the Proposed Development”)

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES CONSULTATION

The following constitutes Eastern IFCA’s response to the Secretary of State’s invitation to all Interested Parties to comment on the information provided in response to the information request of 24 November 2025.

Eastern IFCA notes the conclusions of the Environmental Statement in that no adverse effects were predicted from the potential impacts of the Project on commercial fisheries. Eastern IFCA welcomes the inclusion of a Fisheries Liaison and Co-existence Plan (FLCP) as well as the proposed mitigation for the displacement of fishing effort. However, it should be noted that it has previously been observed that financial compensation measures in the past have resulted in fishers using money to purchase more fishing gear, increasing effort elsewhere. Potential impacts as a result of any increased effort resulting from financial compensation should be assessed as to the effects on features of MPAs (if appropriate) and on fishers already operating in those areas.

Chapter 3 of the Outline Cable Specification and Installation Plan notes that, though the risk of requiring cable protection over sandbanks is low, cable protection may still be necessary for some areas. Eastern IFCA welcomes the commitment to cable burial in section 5.2. However, we wish to emphasise the significant safety risk posed by unburied cables, particularly for small vessels operating in the area, and that this can result in semi-permanent exclusion of fishing activities.

To minimise disruption to fishers, Eastern IFCA would request that communication with fishers remains continuous throughout every phase of the development. Additionally, Eastern IFCA requests that the Project considers our role in facilitating communication, particularly in disseminating information to the full range of fishers.



Marine Science Officer
Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority