

The subject of this representation is the interaction between the GridLink interconnector project and SeaLink in relation to a crossing of each other's subsea cables near the Kent coast. GridLink is a new electricity interconnector between the UK and France, currently in the development phase, and it likely to be implemented on a similar timescale to SeaLink. GridLink holds a Marine Licence and Crown Estate licence option for the installation of its subsea cable. These consents did not foresee this crossing (as SeaLink was not proposed at the time of granting). GridLink has made significant efforts to consult with PLA and fishermen associations related to its project and, as a result, incorporated mitigation measures into its project design and cable routing to minimise water depth reduction and the risk of snagging of anchors and fishing gear. Therefore, for the SeaLink-GridLink crossing, our representation is that SeaLink should comply with applicable PLA requirements and other industry good practice, specifically to preserve the ability to maintain a 12.5m water clearance above the top of any cable protection and, as far as practicable, a perpendicular crossing angle, and therefore to consider the crossing location and approaching cable route accordingly. Depending on which project is executed first, it is possible that GridLink's cable may need to be installed after SeaLink and it will most likely utilise a similar crossing design and installation approach. Therefore, SeaLink should not jeopardise GridLink's ability to be implemented, including its capacity to cross the installed SeaLink cables, if required, and to be granted the necessary consents to do so.