


Foreshore Unit,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,
Newtown Road, Co. Wexford
28th June 2022

Marine Adviser Environment Screening Stage Report

Re: FS006886 Clarus Offshore Wind Farm Ltd. for site investigation surveys off the coasts of Counties Clare and Kerry.

Applicant: Clarus Offshore Wind Farm Ltd.

In response to your email of the 4th of April 2022 I have reviewed the Foreshore Application FS006886 and all the environmental documents associated with it. My comments on and recommendations for this application are as follows:

As the Department's Marine Environment Advisor I conducted independent assessments of the information provided by the Applicant, having regard to the Habitats, Birds and EIA Directives.

Risk Assessment of Annex IV Species

The applicant provided a Risk Assessment for Annex IV species in which the DAHG (2014) guidance on man-made underwater sound was to be implemented. Thus it concluded that with this operation procedure in place it is very unlikely that any Annex IV species will be disturbed, injured or killed as a result of the proposed works. Having considered the application by Clarus Offshore Wind Farm Ltd. and the applicant's Risk Assessment of Annex IV species report I agree with and accept this report and its conclusions.

It should be noted that this risk assessment is not part of the Article 6.3 assessment and therefore identification and inclusion of mitigation measures within the risk assessment is appropriated at this stage.

Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations: Having considered the application by Clarus Offshore Wind Farm Ltd. as the Department's Marine Environment Advisor I concluded that the proposed project does not fall within the classes defined under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive and therefore does not require an EIA.

Article 6(3) of Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) (Habitats Directive): Following a review of the proposed project, as the Department's Marine Environment Advisor I completed a **Screening for Appropriate Assessment** which concluded that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required as the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on European sites.

On completion of the Public and Prescribed Bodies Consultation I will furnish my Final Environmental Report with Determinations which may include any case specific conditions having regard to the information obtained during the consultation phase.

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer - Marine Adviser Environment:



28th June 2022