

APPENDIX 1 – TABLE OF KEY ISSUES AND INPUTS TO THE SEA

The following is a distillation of the key issues for consideration in the SEA assessment, identified through the stakeholder consultation as described further in Appendix 2.

Table A1.1 - Key issues identified through stakeholder consultation

Issue	SF	SW	AW
Spatial conflict with other users, particularly navigation & fisheries	✓		✓
Impacts on designated sites	✓	✓	✓
Noise effects, particularly marine mammals and fish spawning (what is biologically significant?)	✓	✓	✓
Landscape/seascape - aesthetic and visual impacts	✓		✓
Impacts associated with pipelines and cables - particularly at landfall	✓	✓	✓
Assessment of cumulative effects	✓	✓	✓
Drill cuttings			✓
Produced water			✓
Bird displacement (what is biologically significant?)	✓	✓	✓
Incorporation of feedback from Rounds 1 & 2	✓	✓	✓
Military radar (OWFs)			✓
Grid availability and accessibility, including impacts of upgrades	✓	✓	✓
Timeframe - meeting energy targets (OWFs)			✓
Cumulative impacts with future OWFs in Scottish territorial waters		✓	
Flexibility over 6nm exclusion zone for turbines around O&G platforms		✓	✓
Ongoing studies to fill data gaps	✓	✓	
Conflicts between OWFs and O&G	✓		
Identification of areas suitable and not suitable for OWF development	✓	✓	
Impact on energy consumption/CO ₂ emissions due to diversion of shipping	✓		
Impacts of OWFs on common fisheries	✓	✓	
OWF interactions with coastal processes and introduction of hard substrata	✓		
Adopting a precautionary approach to unknown impacts	✓		
Consideration of alternatives to the draft plan and activity scenarios	✓		
Impacts associated with gas storage and recovery	✓	✓	
Climate change implications from end use of the licensing product	✓		

Notes: SW = issue raised in one or more stakeholder workshops; AW = issue raised in assessment workshop; SF = issue raised in scoping feedback; OWFs = offshore windfarms; O&G = oil & gas.

Table A1.2 - Areas to avoid/hard constraints with regard to offshore windfarm leasing (unless stated otherwise)

Area to avoid/'hard' constraints	SF	SW	SW Count	AW
Important areas for navigation (commercial and recreational), including shipping lanes, routes and areas of radar conflict		✓	15	✓
UK defence interests, including radar. MoD Danger Areas in particular		✓	11	✓
Key conservation sites, specifically Natura 2000 sites		✓	10	
Grid connection		✓	9	
Major seabird and marine mammal concentrations (for breeding, feeding, migration)		✓	7	✓

Area to avoid/'hard' constraints	SF	SW	SW Count	AW
Important fishing grounds		✓	7	
Existing oil and gas activities/infrastructure when incompatible		✓	7	
Technological/economic challenges (water depth, geology, meteorology)		✓	6	
Keep hard constraints to an absolute minimum - allow developers to find solutions and consenting bodies to make value judgements on uses of the sea		✓	6	
Existing wind farms		✓	5	
Undersea cables and pipelines		✓	4	
Dredging areas (current and future), including routes to and from		✓	4	
Aviation radar conflict areas		✓	3	
Important archaeological sites, particularly protected wrecks		✓	3	
Future MCZs		✓	2	
Coastal buffer zone, particularly for seascape but also birds	✓	✓	2	✓
Wave and tidal resource areas		✓	1	
Wrecks (for safety)		✓	1	
Important areas for turtles		✓	1	
Not conservation areas: they can be worked around		✓	1	
Sites potentially particularly suitable for carbon capture and storage		✓	1	
Not fish spawning/nursery areas - absence of fishing activity would be a bonus.		✓	1	
With regard to O&G, Moray Firth and Cardigan Bay SACs			n/a	✓
With regard to OWFs, Cardigan Bay			n/a	✓
Variable coastal buffer, for seascape, bird movement and fisheries sensitivities			n/a	✓
With regard to O&G, areas which are particularly favourable for OWFs			n/a	✓

Notes: SW = issue raised in one or more stakeholder workshops; SW count = total number of stakeholders raising issue in all workshops; AW = issue raised in assessment workshop; SF = issue raised in scoping feedback; OWFs = offshore windfarms; O&G = oil & gas.