



Maritime &
Coastguard
Agency

Navigation Safety
Bay 2/24
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG
UK

Your ref: MGN 543 Consultation
Our ref:

23 December 2020

Dear Consultee,

ONE MONTH CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE MARINE GUIDANCE NOTE AND THE METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING THE MARINE NAVIGATIONAL RISKS, IN RELATION TO OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATIONS

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) guidance documents relating to Offshore Renewable Energy Installations underwent a formal 12-week consultation in January 2020. MCA received several comments from representatives from harbour authorities, commercial shipping, recreation, fishing, navigation consultants, Government departments, General Lighthouse Authority and offshore renewable energy developers. We have reviewed all comments received and made amendments to the documents accordingly. A summary of comments to the first consultation will shortly be available online at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?publication_filter_option=consultations

We have drafted a second version of MGN543 and Methodology documents and we would like to carry out a second, shorter, consultation. This consultation seeks your comments on a second draft of the following two documents:

1. Revised Marine Guidance Note (MGN) *Safety of Navigation: Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs) – Guidance on UK Navigational Practice, Safety and Emergency Response*.

This will replace MGN 543 and is being updated in accordance with current practices, to provide more information on MCA's requirements, and to align with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

2. Revised *Methodology for assessing the Navigational Safety and Emergency Response of Offshore Renewable Energy Installations*.

This will replace the existing Methodology document and has been amended to ensure it is more user-friendly and contains updated and relevant information for the development consent application process.

Both documents show the amendments made following comments received to the first consultation, showing in Track Changes. This consultation period will run for 5 weeks. Please send your responses to MCA by email to navigationsafety@mcga.gov.uk by **Friday 29th January 2021**.

In addition to the above documents, MCA consulted on Revised Marine Guidance Note (MGN) *Safety of Navigation - Guidance to Mariners operating in the vicinity of UK OREIs*. This will



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replace MGN 372 and is being updated to reflect progress made in the UK offshore renewables industry. This document is not being included as part of a second consultation and the new version, with new MGN number, will be published in the New Year.

Freedom of Information

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department/MCA. The MCA will process your personal data in accordance with the data protection framework and, in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Data Protection

The MCA is carrying out this consultation to gather evidence. The consultation is being carried out in the public interest to inform the development of policy. The MCA will use your contact details to send you information about the consultation, for example if we need to ask follow-up questions, as part of its functions as a government department. Your email responses or letters will be used to update the consultation documents, and your contact details will be retained to keep you up to date on progress, and to inform you when the final published document is available. Your information will be kept secure and will not be used for any other purpose without your permission. Your contact details will be kept for the next two years, after which they will be deleted.

To find out more about how the MCA looks after personal data, your rights, and how to contact our data protection officer, please go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency/about/personal-information-charter>

If you do not wish to remain on this list, please reply and let us know.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Salter
Offshore Renewables Lead
UK Technical Services Navigation
Maritime and Coastguard Agency