



The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

Protection of Wild Birds in UK Offshore Waters – Advice Notes

The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) transpose the EU Wild Birds Directive and give protection to wild birds, their eggs and nests in UK offshore waters. OPRED is working closely with industry on specific cases and developing complementary information for industry, with advice from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), on the protection of wild birds offshore. Information and advice will be provided to industry as it becomes available.

Seabird Survey Methods for Offshore Installations: Black-legged kittiwakes

Casework to date has indicated that black-legged kittiwakes are the predominant bird species exploiting nesting opportunities on offshore installations (typically those in lighthouse mode prior to dismantlement). It is also recognised that gathering nesting bird data for offshore installations is challenging. As a first step OPRED asked the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) to provide an advice note on kittiwake survey methods for offshore installations and this is now available in the guidance section on GOV.UK at the link below. The associated recording forms are available as a separate Word document in the same place.

It should be noted that this advice note is JNCC advice at this time (March 2021). It is recognised that the survey methods need full testing offshore and where necessary updates will be considered based on feedback provided. Industry should consider their specific circumstances and discuss potential survey plans as they are being developed with the appropriate OPRED Environmental Manager, particularly if there are any changes from the JNCC advised kittiwake survey methods or if survey methods for other bird species are being considered.

Information and Resources: Black-legged kittiwakes

JNCC have also provided OPRED with a signposting document containing information and resources for black-legged kittiwakes that should be used by industry in the relevant environmental applications. The inclusion of other, more recent evidence is also encouraged in applications. The kittiwake signposting document is available on GOV.UK at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/oil-and-gas-offshore-environmental-legislation#conservation-of-offshore-marine-habitats-and-species-regulations-2017>

If you have any queries please contact the appropriate OPRED Environmental Manager for assistance via BST@beis.gov.uk

Kind regards
Business Support Team