

Call for Information – Planned Impulsive Noise Activities in the Southern North Sea SAC

(Winter 2025–2026 and Summer 2026)

Dear Sir/Madam,

As part of ongoing commitment to manage and coordinate impulsive noise-generating activities in the Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation (SNS SAC), the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), in collaboration with the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED), is issuing a call for information.

We are seeking input from all developers and operators planning to undertake impulsive noise-generating activities within or likely to affect the SNS SAC during either of the following periods:

- **Winter 2025–2026:** 1st October 2025 – 31st March 2026
- **Summer 2026:** 1st April 2026 – 30th September 2026

Submission Requirements by Regulator

MMO	OPRED
Mandatory submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Piling• Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance• Geophysical Surveys (Marine Licence)	Mandatory submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Piling• Explosive Activity (e.g. P&A activities)• Geophysical Surveys
Voluntary submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geophysical Surveys* (Exemptions)	Voluntary submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A

** Note: Geophysical surveys related to offshore wind development can be exempt from marine licensing if the Applicant concludes there is no impact to a Marine Protected Area. However, MMO requests voluntary submission of the data for any exemptions to support future strategic planning for underwater noise management.*

The information required is outlined in the submission template attached at the end of this letter.

Why Your Input Matters

It is essential that MMO and OPRED receive this information to forecast predicted noise levels in the SNS SAC during these busy periods. While detailed project data may not yet be available, any indicative information, even on a worst-case scenario basis, is valuable.

As more accurate information becomes available, developers and operators are expected to send updates to the appropriate email addresses listed below.

Winter 2025–2026: 1st October 2025 – 31st March 2026

In addition to our usual summer data request, we are now also seeking information for the upcoming winter season. As activity levels typically increase during winter, regulators anticipate a potential need for enhanced monitoring and management of underwater noise.

Based on the data received, the MMO and OPRED will assess whether a coordinated management approach is necessary and will inform industry accordingly.

Please submit your winter information as soon as possible. Early submissions are essential to help us understand planned activities and allow sufficient time to implement any necessary management measures.

Summer 2026: 1st April 2026 – 30th September 2026

Development Coordination Forum

All developers and operators planning impulsive noise-generating activities during Summer 2026 that may affect the SNS SAC are expected to:

- Participate in the 2026 Summer Development Coordination Forum and associated Simultaneous Operations (SIMOPs) calls.
- Coordinate activity timing to avoid exceeding [noise disturbance thresholds](#).
- Provide contact details of relevant project representatives who will engage in this coordination.

Early engagement with regulators is strongly encouraged.

Deadline for Submission

Please submit completed forms and any updates to the relevant regulator:

- **MMO:** sru@marinemanagement.org.uk
- **OPRED:** opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

Note: If you have an active marine licence case with the MMO, please also copy your assigned case team. For OPRED-regulated activities, operators should contact their assigned environmental manager.

Submission Deadline for Winter 2025–2026 Activities: ASAP

Submission Deadline for Summer 2026 Activities: COP Friday 26th September 2025

Kind regards,

Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED)

Data Submission Form

Field	Details
Case Reference Number (if known)	
Intended Start Date/Month	
Intended End Date/Month	
Area of SAC Impacted (summer, winter, or both – see Figure 1)	
Duration of Activity Affecting SNS SAC (days)	
Activity Type (e.g. UXO, piling, geophysical surveys)	
Daily Activity Area Within the SNS SAC (km²)	
Planned Mitigation/Noise Abatement Measures	
Contact Name(s) and Email Address(es) for Forum Participation	

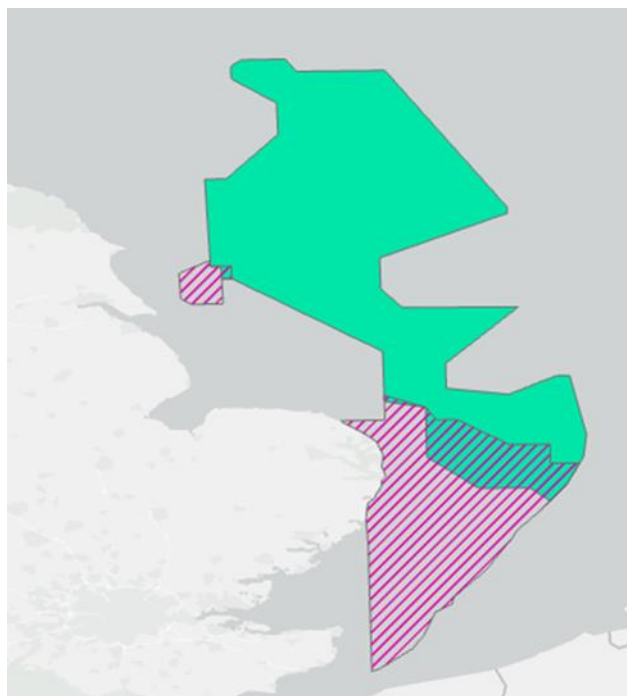


Figure 1. The Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation (SNS SAC). Summer area: solid green. Winter area: hatched pink. For GIS files and further information, please see the [JNCC MPA mapper](#).