

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

## Winter 2026–2027

To whom it may concern,

As part of our ongoing commitment to manage and coordinate 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 this formal call for information.

We are seeking input from all developers and operators who are planning to undertake **impulsive noise-generating activities** that may impact\* the SNS SAC during the following period:

**Winter 2026–2027:** 1 October 2026 – 31 March 2027

*\*For the purposes of this request, an activity will be classed as having an “impact” on the SNS SAC if it:*

- *Takes place wholly or partially within the SNS SAC; or*
- *Has an Effective Deterrent Range (EDR) that overlaps with the SNS SAC.*

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## Submission Requirements by Regulator

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

*\*Geophysical surveys related to offshore wind development may be exempt from marine licensing where the Applicant concludes there is no impact on a Marine Protected Area. MMO strongly requests voluntary submission of information for all such exemptions to support future strategic planning for underwater noise management.*

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## Information Required

All submissions must be completed using the data submission template provided at the end of this letter.

If you are conducting more than one activity, please submit a separate table for each activity (e.g. one table for UXO clearance and one table for monopiling).

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## Purpose and Use of Information

This is a formal call for information. MMO and OPRED require this information to forecast underwater noise levels in the SNS SAC during Winter 2026–2027 (1 October 2026 – 31 March 2027).

Indicative information, including worst-case estimates, is acceptable at this stage to meet the required deadline (outlined below). Updates should be submitted as project details are refined.

Based on the information received, regulators will assess the need for enhanced monitoring or a coordinated management approach and inform industry accordingly.

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## Deadline for Submission

**Submission Deadline: Close of Play, Thursday 28 May 2026**

Please submit completed forms and updates to the relevant regulator:

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

Additional instructions:

- If you have an active marine licence case with MMO, also copy your assigned case team.
  - For OPRED-regulated activities, contact your assigned OPRED environmental manager.
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Kind regards,

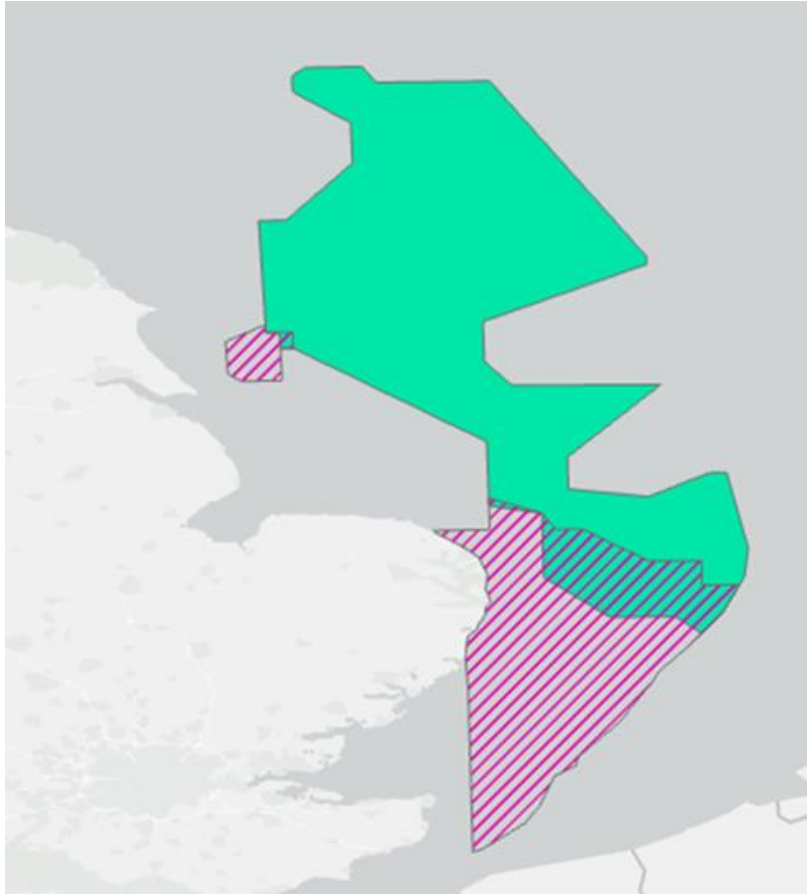
**Marine Management Organisation (MMO)**

**Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED)**

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## Data Submission Form

Field	Details
<p><b>Case Reference Number</b> If no reference has been issued, leave this field blank.</p>	
<p><b>Intended Start Date or Month</b> The date or month the activity is expected to commence. <i>Not the licence start date.</i></p>	
<p><b>Intended End Date or Month</b> The date or month the activity is expected to be completed. <i>Not the licence end date.</i></p>	
<p><b>Area of SNS SAC Impacted</b> Indicate the seasonal area(s) impacted: Summer, Winter, or Both. Refer to Figure 1.</p>	
<p><b>Total Number of Days with Impact on the SNS SAC</b> The total number of days the activity is expected to impact the SNS SAC.</p>	
<p><b>Activity Type</b> (e.g. UXO clearance, piling, geophysical surveys)</p>	
<p><b>Maximum Daily Disturbance Footprint (km<sup>2</sup>)</b> Maximum area (km<sup>2</sup>) disturbed on any single day. This should represent the overall disturbance area, not the EDR radius alone.</p>	
<p><b>Planned Mitigation / Noise Abatement Measures</b> Describe any noise mitigation measures to be used (e.g. bubble curtains, soft-start procedures).</p>	
<p><b>Contact Name(s) and Email Address(es)</b> Provide contact details for at least one member of your organisation who can respond to regulatory queries relating to the activity.</p>	



**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](#).