

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

Summer 2027

To whom it may concern,

As part of our 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 this formal Call for Information (CFI).

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

- **Summer 2027:** 1 April 2027 to 30 September 2027

For the purposes of this request, an activity will be considered to impact the SNS SAC if it:

- Takes place wholly or partly within the SNS SAC; or
- Has an Effective Deterrent Range (EDR) that extends into any part of the SNS SAC.

Submission Requirements by Regulator

	MMO	OPRED
Mandatory submissions	• Piling • Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Clearance • Geophysical Surveys (Marine Licence)	• Piling • Explosive Activity (e.g. P&A activities) • Geophysical Surveys
Voluntary submissions	• Geophysical Surveys* (Exemptions)	• N/A

Note: Geophysical surveys related to offshore wind development may be exempt from marine licensing where the Applicant concludes there is no impact to a Marine Protected Area. However, MMO requests voluntary submission of information relating to such exempt activities to support future strategic planning and management of underwater noise.

Information Required

All submissions must be completed using the Data Submission Form provided at the end of this letter.

A **separate Data Submission Form must be completed for each activity type**. For example, where a project includes both UXO clearance and piling activities, separate forms should be submitted for each activity.

Purpose and Use of Information

This is a formal Call for Information. MMO and OPRED require this information to forecast potential underwater noise disturbance within the SNS SAC and to assess whether coordinated management measures may be required to manage cumulative disturbance.

Indicative information, including precautionary or worst-case estimates where necessary, is acceptable at this stage to meet the submission deadline outlined below. Updated information should be submitted as project details are refined.

Based on the information received, regulators will assess whether a coordinated management approach is required and will inform industry accordingly.

Deadline for Submission

Submission Deadline: 17:00 on Friday 25 September 2026

Please send completed forms and any subsequent updates to:

underwaternoise@marinemanagement.org.uk

for both MMO- and OPRED-regulated activities.

Please note that we are trialling a **joint approach** to CFI submissions this year; therefore, information submitted in response to this CFI will be shared between MMO and OPRED.

Additional Instructions

- If you have an active marine licence case with the MMO, please also copy your assigned case team into the submission.
 - For OPRED-regulated activities, please also copy your assigned Environmental Manager into the submission.
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Kind regards,

Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED)

Data Submission Form

Field	Details	Response
Case Reference Number	If no reference has been issued, leave this field blank.	
Intended Start Date	The date the activity is expected to commence. <i>This should not be the licence start date.</i>	Click or tap to enter a date.
Intended End Date	The date the activity is expected to be completed. <i>This should not be the licence end date.</i>	Click or tap to enter a date.
Area of SNS SAC Impacted	Indicate the seasonal area(s) impacted: Summer, Winter, or Both. Refer to Figure 1.	Choose an item.
Total Number of Days with Impact on the SNS SAC	The total number of days on which the activity is expected to impact the SNS SAC.	
Activity Type	For example: UXO clearance, piling, geophysical survey, or explosive activity.	
Maximum Daily Area	The maximum area expected to be disturbed on a single day of the activity, expressed in km ² and calculated using the relevant Effective Deterrent Range (EDR). Please provide the maximum area affected , not the EDR value itself.	
Planned Mitigation / Noise Ab	Describe any noise mitigation measures to be used, such as bubble curtains or soft-start procedures.	
Contact Name(s) and Email Address(es)	Provide contact details for at least two individuals who can respond to regulatory queries relating to the activity.	

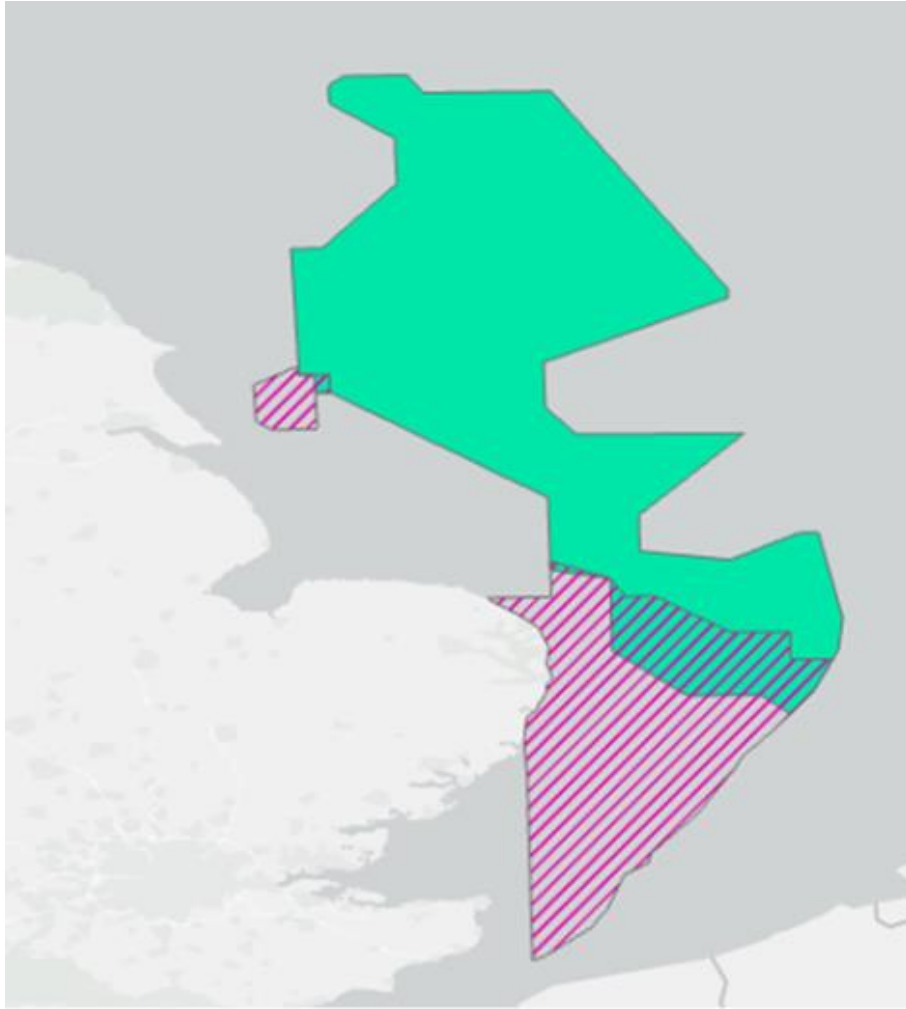


Figure 1. *The Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation (SNS SAC). Summer area: solid green. Winter area: hatched pink. GIS files and further information are available via the [JNCC MPA Mapper](#).**