

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 11th March 2010

Time: 10.30

Location: RWE npower offices, 77 Kingsway, Holborn, London

Subject: Engagement with the fishing industry and the development of the Dogger Bank offshore wind farm zone.

Attendees:

Mike Park – Scottish White Fish Producers Association

Sarah Goddard - WWF

Barrie Deas – NFFO

Dale Rodmell NFFO

Nigel Proctor – Consultant “Precision Marine Survey Ltd”

Rory Campbell - Scottish Fishermens Federation

Henrik Lund – Denmark

Perrine Ducloy - France

Willem (Pim) Wisser – Netherlands

Willem De Boer - Netherlands

Harald Oestensjoe - Norway

Euan Dunn - RSPB

Gareth Lewis - Forewind Ltd

Sharn Ward - Forewind Ltd

Kim Gauld-Clark - Forewind Ltd

Introductions to Forewind and the Dogger Bank project:

- Forewind Ltd comprises four European energy companies: Statoil, Statkraft, SSE and RWE npower renewables, all of which are significant players in the renewable energy sector.
- Dogger Bank is the largest zone in the Crown Estate’s Offshore Wind Round 3.
- The zone has the potential capacity to accommodate up to nearly 13GW electricity generating capacity.
- Development of the zone is at a very early stage.
- There are no pre-conceived ideas about the form of the arrangement or design of the zone, or areas of the zone that could be more suitable for development.
- Forewind are undertaking a zonal characterisation process to fully understand the zone and the various constraints. This forms part of the zonal assessment and planning (ZAP) process, which will enable the robust identification of individual sites/project areas within the Dogger Bank zone.

- The Dogger Bank zone will be developed in phases, known as “tranches”.

Introduction to the NSRAC. NSRAC formed in 2004 after the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in 2002. It is a transnational body made up of all member states as well as Norway. It provide fisheries policy advice to the EU.

There are two main working groups:

Demersal Group – Chaired by Barrie Deas

Spatial Planning Working Group – Chaired by Euan Dunn

The NSRAC Member States are UK, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Denmark and Sweden. Norway (not being in the EU) has observer status.

Some member countries of the NSRAC responded to the consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Round 3 offshore zones.

NSRAC stressed that the Dogger Bank zone is very important to the fishing sectors in all countries (especially UK and Netherlands), notably for flatfish. In addition, in 2008, the Dogger Bank Zone provided the Danish with approximately 150000 tonnes of Sandeels worth £23m (approximately 6.6% of the total catch) to the Danish economy in 2008 alone.

NSRAC provided data for the draft SAC on the Dogger Bank Impact Report, based on the Lot 7 study led by CEFAS. The Dogger Bank was chosen to undertake a pilot analysis. Euan Dunn to forward an electronic copy of the paper to Sharn Ward [done].

All agreed that all Forewind's EIA assessments and any comments from the fishing industry on the proposals must be evidence-based. There are currently two main sources of fishing data available:

1. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)
2. ICES Log book data

Each of these data sources (on which the Lot 7 study was based) has limitations. VMS only applies to vessels > 15m, so does not record data of smaller vessels. In addition, the ICES square spatial scale is not high enough resolution to address fishing activity in relation to turbine placement.

All the existing data require a great deal of interpretation to understand what the boats are doing and may need a historical

context and there are also big data gaps. The fishing industry can help fill that gap.

The development of Rounds 1 and 2 of offshore wind farms have not been a good example of useful engagement with the fishing industry. A more collaborative approach is needed for Round 3.

Statoil have been involved with productive engagement with the fishing industry regarding the proposed Langeled pipeline, and this is recommended by the fishing industry as a helpful model to use.

NSRAC advised Forewind that it was willing to act as a forum to direct dialogue on Forewind's development activities to its member states but recommended that further dialogue with independent member states and their fisheries industry was undertaken to ensure that all were given the opportunity to engage.

It was noted that not all fishermen were represented by a national organisation and that it was more difficult to identify individuals and that the information deficit was larger inshore. Engaging with all fishermen in these circumstances is challenging but could be addressed through the arrangement of a community meeting (with careful consideration of timing to avoid times of peak activities).

Barrie Deas raised the possibility of undertaking a new study to gather a comprehensive set of data on the fishing industry across the North Sea area. This could provide Forewind, other wind farm developers and industries active in the North Sea, policy makers and the fishing sector itself with the quality of data that is necessary to undertake accurate and evidence-based assessments of the effects of developments and policies on the various sectors of fishing industry.

Such a piece of work would take the form of collation of data from a wide variety of sources within the fishing industry, including those smaller sectors, particularly those using smaller vessels, that aren't currently captured in the existing data sets or aren't members of fishing associations. It would need to be collated in a common format.

NSRAC invited Forewind to contribute to the costs of such a study. Forewind agreed to this in principle, subject to reassurances being made about the quality of the data and the availability of it for Forewind's own site-specific EIA assessments.

NSRAC advised Forewind to ensure that, in assessing the zone, and undertaking site-specific assessments, the cumulative effects of the proposal with other offshore wind zones was fully considered.

