Background information to meeting on May 4

Last year Forewind completed the first part of their Zone Appraisal and Planning (ZAP) phase which enabled them to identify Tranche A, the area within which they will begin their Environmental Impact Assessment works and continue their consultation activities in order to identify the location of their first three 'projects'.

Tranche A is 2000km2 and is located in the south west corner of the Zone. The Zone Characterisation (ZoC)and the identification of Tranche A reports are available on Forewind's website should you wish to see further details of either the process or the area which they have selected - http://www.forewind.co.uk/dogger-bank/tranche-a-project-one-documents/.

The website also includes the scoping report for Dogger Bank Project One, an offshore wind farm of up to 1.4GW in capacity. The report makes proposals for Forewind's approach to survey work and the methodologies they will use to assess any impacts associated with delivery of the project. This was submitted to the UK's Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) (the regulator for offshore wind farm developments) in support of a request for a formal scoping opinion which was made in October 2010.

The IPC consulted with the relevant statutory consultees before providing their formal scoping opinion which has now been published on their website. Forewind do recognise that not all of their stakeholders were invited by the IPC to comment on the report and so they sent notification to their full list of stakeholders, including the members of the NSRAC, advising that the report was available should we wish to review it and feed back any comments or questions that we may have.

Forewind's zone-wide and Tranche A geophysics surveys were completed last year and they began to undertake a series of shallow boreholes and CPTs across the Zone, the majority of these being focused in the south west region with the aim of characterising the shallow/foundation depth geology. Their environmental survey work will continue across the Zone this year with aerial and boat based bird and marine mammal surveys still being conducted on a monthly basis. They hope to start a number of other environmental surveys in the coming months including benthic and fish ecology surveys.

The next phase of ZAP which will aim to identify **Tranche B**.