April 2024

Notice to Fishermen: North Channel Wind Marine Surveys

North Channel Wind intends to carry out marine surveys at the proposed North Channel Wind 1 (NCW 1) offshore wind farm site to help inform the location and design of the proposed wind farm and the cable route to shore.

Survey Area

The NCW 1 site is located off the County Antrim coast. The survey area includes the development area where the turbines will be (outlined in red on the map) plus a 2 km buffer, and the export cable corridor area of search (outlined in black on the map).

Marine Construction Licence Application

North Channel Wind has submitted a Marine Construction Licence application to DAERA in order to carry out the surveys. The application will be advertised in newspapers and will be open to public consultation. The licence application, the survey method statement, environmental and shipping & navigation assessments, are available to view on our website at www.northchannelwind.com/consultation.

Types of Survey

Type	Purpose & Duration (subject to weather conditions)	Details
Geophysical	Maps the seabed and sub-surface to inform wind farm design, identify marine habitats and archaeology. Duration: Approximately 15 days offshore and 3 days nearshore.	A survey vessel, approximately 30-80 meters long, will perform transects across the development area and up to 2km surrounding it. An area approx. 1.5km wide will be surveyed within the cable corridor area of search. In nearshore areas, a smaller vessel approximately 15 meters long will be used. The survey uses various types of equipment including GPS, multibeam echosounder, side scan sonar, magnetometer, sub-bottom profiler and Ultra High Resolution Seismic. Some of the equipment will be towed behind the vessel. *Note that the seismic surveys use pingers & sparkers, NOT airguns, and only penetrate to shallow depths.*
Metocean / ACDP	Measures waves, water levels and tidal currents. Duration: Approximately 12 months.	The survey uses an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) housed either in a trawl-proof, shrouded, seabed frame to anchor the instrument to the seafloor, or in low drag submerged buoy held in position with a ground weight. A survey vessel, approx. 20-60 meters long, will be used to transport, deploy and recover the ADCPs at two locations within the red line development area. The locations will be selected based on factors such as sea depth, seabed characteristics and distance to infrastructure.
Wave Buoy	Characterises the wave climate, to inform the design and positioning of the wind farm infrastructure and to investigate potential impact on sediment transport and coastal processes.	The wave buoy will be equipped with an array of sensors to capture specific types of data including wave heights, periods and direction. A downward-looking ADCP may also be integrated to measure subsurface ocean currents. The buoy will operate continuously, gathering data in real-time. This data will be transmitted via satellite or GSM, to enable remote observation and data acquisition. The mooring system features a length of rubber (bungee) cord to allow the buoy to absorb shocks and adapt to the dynamic marine environment. The bungee is coupled with a high tensile mooring line or chain, supplemented

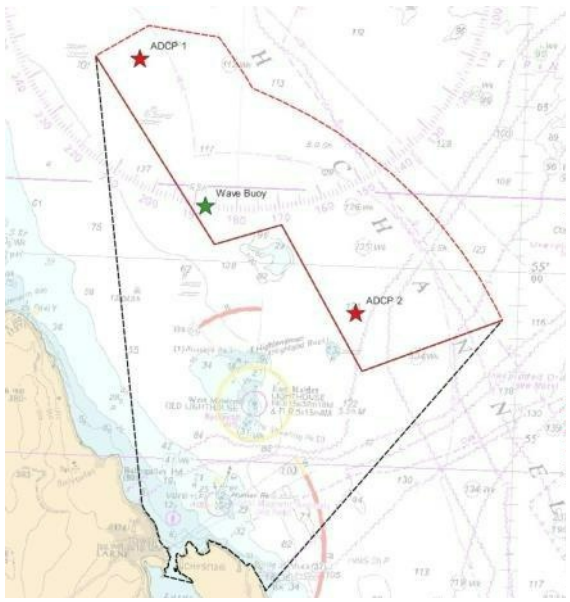
	Duration: Approximately 12 months.	with inline floats, weights and sinker weight on the seabed. The buoy will feature a flashing obstruction light and will be lit and marked in agreement with the Commissioner for Irish Lights.
Benthic	Maps seabed habitats.	Benthic: A mechanical grab sampler, lowered from a vessel, will collect soil samples from the development area, and from an area approximately 1.5km wide within the cable corridor area of search. Video and still photograph imagery will also be collected.
Marine Mammal	Surveys marine mammals, such as dolphins and porpoises. Duration: Approximately 12 months.	Up to two detectors, called CPODs or FPODs, will be deployed at any one time across the site. A sound trap may be deployed alongside one of the detectors to obtain background noise measurements. The detectors will be recovered every three months to download data and change batteries. The exact locations of the detectors have not yet been determined. Either two locations will be selected, or the detectors will be relocated during battery change to achieve a wider coverage.
Marine Vessel Traffic Survey	Surveys marine vessel traffic to inform the Navigational Risk Assessment and EIA. Duration: Approximately 2 x 14 days.	A Maritime Guidance Note 654 compliant vessel-based vessel traffic survey (AIS, Radar and Visual) of two x 14-day survey campaigns with one vessel roaming in the vicinity of the red line development area plus a suitable buffer. *(Note that a Marine Construction Licence is not required to complete this survey, but we are including it in this notice for information.)*

Survey Schedule

The surveys will be carried out after award of the Marine Construction License. Indicative timings are in the table, and are subject to weather conditions. We will be engaging with fishermen through our Fisheries Liaison Officer in the coming months, to communicate survey timings and agree any associated actions with plenty of notice before the surveys take place.

Survey	Indicative timing
Geophysical	Spring 2025
Metocean	Winter 2024/25
Wave Buoy	Winter 2024/25
Benthic	From Autumn 2024
Marine Mammal	Winter 2024/25
Traffic survey	From Summer 2024

Example ADCP seabed frame for metocean surveys



Indicative ADCP and Wave Buoy locations

Get in Touch

If you have any questions or concerns about the surveys, please contact us:
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