



North Celtic Sea
Positive Energy for a Sustainable Future



NCS SURVEY

Survey Summary:

Start Date: c. 6th April (weather dependant)

Duration: c. 6 weeks (weather dependant)

Type of survey: Geophysical - multibeam echosounder, sub-bottom profiler, side-scan sonar, magnetometer and ultra-high-resolution survey equipment. Equipment will be both hull-mounted and towed.

Similar to Marine Institute surveys, through their INFOMAR programme in 2001, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2018.

Vessel Operator: Roman Rebel (2ICA5)

Vessel Operator: Green Rebel

Marine Notice: No. 16 of 2022

Purpose of survey:

The survey will provide important information on the seabed conditions including water depth, sediment type and habitat distribution. The information will also inform potentially suitable locations for offshore infrastructure.

High level project timeline:

Submission of planning - Q4 2023

Earliest start of construction - Q2 2026

Refer to www.northcelticseawind.ie for further information.

Communication:

Energia presence at piers:

- > 30th and 31st March
- > 6th and 7th April

Ongoing communication:

Mark O'Reilly

☎ 021 203 1005

Fishing and survey co-existence:

Engagement

Energia have engaged with fishers and fishing industry representatives over the past 24 months in relation to the North Celtic Sea project to understand views of fishing industry and existing activity within the survey area

Feedback

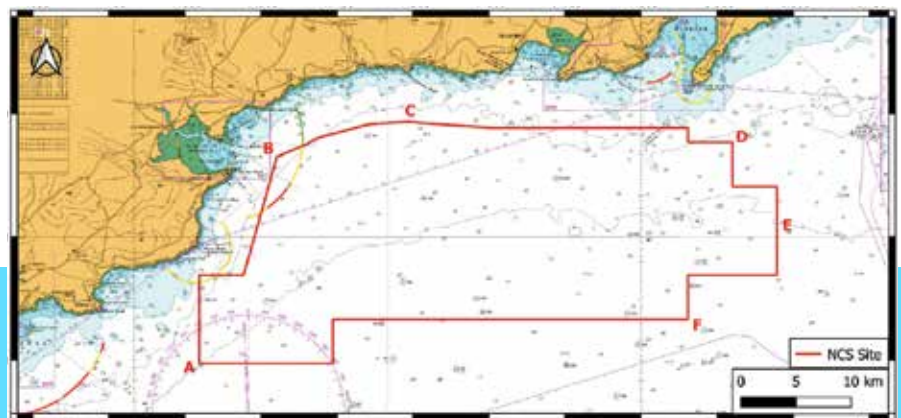
Following feedback during this engagement, Energia committed to and has undertaken monthly activity surveys since May 2020. This information along with direct feedback from fishers has directly fed in to our survey planning

Approach

Energia has proposed utilising a co-existence approach to the planned survey activity where fishing can continue during the survey period

Energia believe that co-existence is achievable by planning ahead, providing survey information and planning the survey to avoid areas being fished in the first instance.

Where the requirement arises for Energia to request the relocation of gear (these will be kept to a minimum), Energia will provide sufficient notice via our Fishery Liaison Officer (FLO) and pay individual vessels to do so.



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www.northcelticseawind.ie

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Renewables

Why has Energia proposed a co-existence approach?

In response to feedback in relation to interactions between fishing activities and surveying activities, Energia committed to gathering information on existing fishing activities in the area and to use that information to determine the potential for interaction. Energia have been surveying fishing activity in the area on a largely monthly basis since May 2020.

We have used the information gathered to plan our surveys in such a way as to avoid or minimise any interactions with ongoing fishing activities.

Examples of this include:

- Planning our surveys to avoid the busiest fishing periods in the survey area
- Our commitment to avoiding site investigation survey works during the very important Shrimp season and the pelagic fishery for sprat / herring
- Avoiding the unnecessary surveying of cable corridors until we are confident of the route that will be required

Following review of the information provided by fishers and collected by Energia through our monthly surveys, we have proposed a co-existence approach to ensure that fishing can continue during the survey period.

How will the co-existence approach work in practice?

It is our intention to provide early information around the survey to those fishers we know to be typically fishing in the area based on feedback and data gathered to date.

Where the requirement arises for Energia to request the relocation of gear, we will provide sufficient notice via our Fishery Liaison Officer (FLO) and pay individual vessels to do so.

The gear will not need to be removed from the offshore site, it will only need to be relocated to the north or south while the survey vessel progresses and the gear can then be relocated back to the original position (a matter of days).

Gear which is ordinarily fished in the offshore area (as opposed to the inshore shallower waters) will be able to remain within the vicinity of those areas (albeit relocation may be requested in the manner set out as above).

We are hopeful that the fishing community will work with us on this co-existence approach to deliver a successful outcome for both. The delivery of a successful survey - while ensuring fishing can continue - is the first step in achieving the longer-term co-existence approach for the project.

Does Energia intend to ask fishers to remove all equipment from the survey area?

No, the proposed co-existence approach means that Energia will not be asking fishermen to stop fishing or to clear the survey area of gear for the duration of the survey.

This would not be in line with the principles and model of co-existence that Energia has proposed and are aiming to achieve with the fishing industry.

By ensuring that those fishers who are currently active in the survey area are able to remain in that area or relocate further south rather than being relocated inshore, the potential displacement effect on inshore fishing activities is avoided. This has been raised as a concern to Energia over the past 24 months and is something that we intend to avoid.