

Rania Sermpezi  
Licensing Operations Team  
Marine Scotland  
375 Victoria Road  
Aberdeen  
AB11 9DB

**ABERDEEN HARBOUR BOARD - ABERDEEN HARBOUR EXPANSION PROJECT,  
CONSTRUCTION AND CAPITAL DREDGING & SEA DISPOSAL, NIGG BAY - CEMD - MARINE  
MAMMAL MITIGATION PLAN**

Marine Scotland Science has reviewed the submitted mitigation plan and has provided the following comments.

**marine mammals**

As mentioned in comments on several other plans, MSS consider that there should be better cross reference between this plan and those related to the construction works that are taking place. We are concerned that the way in which the plans link together is not well communicated at present.

MSS welcome the inclusion of details such as the location of the MMO observation points, and also that the MMOs will communicate directly with the blast master. It may be helpful to display the process involved in a flow diagram, as has been done for the dredging mitigation.

Details of the hydrophones for recording animals as underwater noise levels are provided. MSS recommend that for recordings to understand the noise levels produced during blasting and piling activities, the developer and their consultants take advice from the device manufacturers on required sensitivity and gain settings. There is a risk that near-source recordings could damage the recorders if they are too sensitive. Far field recorders may require different settings to those used in the near field.

Figure 3 showing the indicative location of the bubble curtain is not very clear. MSS would recommend that a new figure is provided.

MSS recommends that MS-LOT requests copies of the MMO logs and records of activities, in addition to the being submitted to JNCC.

MSS welcome the potential for a studentship to consider the effects of this construction project to marine mammals. We had understood from previous discussions that CPODs may be deployed to understand the difference in dolphin and porpoise presence at the site during construction works. We would welcome discussion to understand why this does not appear to be the case and around whether this would be put into place should there be a studentship. MSS would be content to discuss experimental design for this.

**diadromous fish**

Please use our comments on Chapter 08 Fish Species Protection Plan in relation to diadromous fish, as appropriate.

Hopefully these comments are helpful to you. If you wish to discuss any matters further contact the MSS Renewables in-box [MS\\_Renewables@gov.scot](mailto:MS_Renewables@gov.scot).

Yours sincerely

**Paul Stainer**

Marine Scotland Science