The West of Duddon Sands Offshore Wind Farm is a joint venture between DONG Energy and ScottishPower Renewables. The Wind Farm is located approximately 14km from the nearest coast off Walney Island, Cumbria and covers an area of approximately 66km². The wind farm will comprise 108 wind turbine generators, each with a capacity of 3.6MW giving a total capacity of 389MW. Each wind turbine generator will be connected by submarine cables to an offshore substation inside the wind farm and from there via two 155kV submarine cables to the shore, by way of a landfall near Middleton in Lancashire, and National Grid transmission system.

Reducing the Risks whilst Fishing

To reduce the risks of fishing near offshore structures, it is essential to be up to date with KIS-ORCA information. KIS-ORCA information is easy to install on your vessel's fishing plotter and ensures skippers are able to make informed decisions for their safety.

The closer to the surface a subsea cable is lifted when fouled by fishing gear, the more danger there is to the fishing vessel. In the interests of fishing safety and to prevent damage to subsea structures, fishermen are advised to exercise caution when fishing in the vicinity of subsea cables and renewable energy structures. Loss of gear, fishing time and catch can result if a trawler snags a subsea structure and there is serious risk of loss of life.

Emergency Procedures

1. If you suspect you have snagged a subsea cable, DO NOT endanger your vessel and crew by attempting to recover your gear.
2. Carefully plot your vessel’s position as accurately as possible.
3. Advise the Coastguard of your situation, and call the 24 hour Emergency Number and state that an incident is occurring concerning a subsea cable.

Advisory Safety Zones

An Advisory Safety Zone of 50m around each turbine and substation structure is requested. An 200m anchorage exclusion zone around the export cable is requested. All vessels are asked to respect the Advisory Safety Zones, which as well as reducing the risk of collision damage, will provide protection to vessels, the export cable, and wind turbine structures.

If any major maintenance works are planned, Notices to Mariners will be promulgated in advance as required. During such works a Mandatory Safety Zone of 500m is likely to apply to certain turbines and/or vessels.

Contact Details

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Always ensure you have the latest Kingfisher Information onboard your vessel
As wind turbines get larger and are deployed in deeper waters, a range of different foundation types may be encountered such as monopile, jacket, gravity base and suction bucket. In some cases multiple foundation types may be used within a single site. In all cases it is likely that scour holes will form around the foundation base, the depth and extent being dependent upon a range of factors including seabed type and current strength and direction. Scour protection in the form of rock dumping or cable mattresses is often used around the base of the foundations which may present a snagging risk. During the operational phase of a wind farm, an operator may request a 50m advisory safety zone around each structure.

Wind Turbines and Foundations

The inter array cables interconnect the turbines typically in radial strings going to the offshore substation platform. The issues associated with these are largely the same as per cable burial. Each turbine will usually have up to two cables entering the foundation structure at the seabed through a protective tube. Typically the tube end has a bellmouth at the seabed to aid alignment and pulling in of the cables. Whilst the cables may have been jetted in or ploughed as close as practical to the foundation, cables may not be fully buried and may also become exposed by scour holes forming. In these circumstances scour protection in the form of rock dumping or cable mattresses may be used. Cables adjoining the foundation may present a snagging risk to anchors and/or trawled gear.
PLEASE KEEP CLEAR OF AND DO NOT DAMAGE SUBSEA CABLES

THESE CABLES CARRY HIGH VOLTAGES AND CAN BE DANGEROUS TO LIFE

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO WILFULLY DAMAGE SUBSEA CABLES