

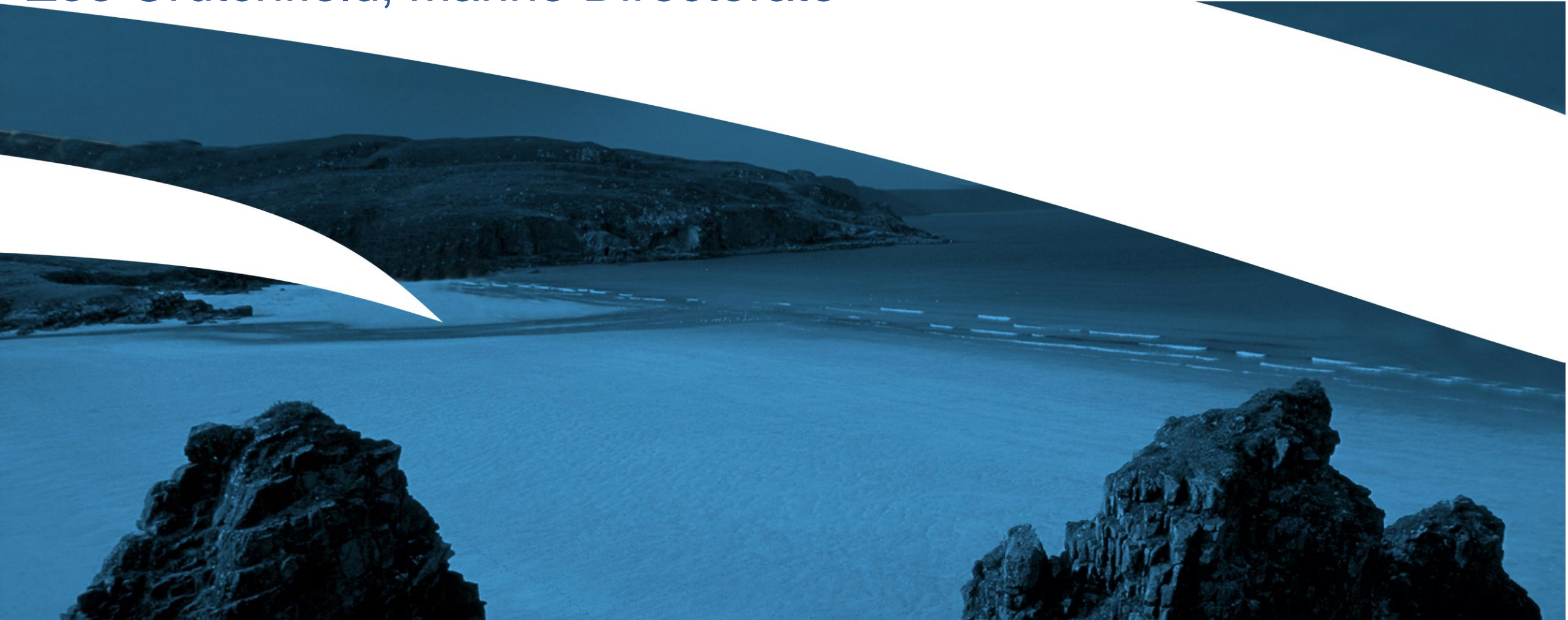
Offshore Wind 2: Offshore electricity transmission infrastructure

Planning, consenting and offshore renewables

Zoe Crutchfield, Marine Directorate



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Marine Directorate - Licensing Operations Team

Based across Scotland

55+ Staff and growing

Responsible for, on behalf of Scottish Ministers:

- Marine Licensing
 - cables, deposits (cable protections) and sub-stations, dredging
- European Protected Species Disturbance Licence (EPS)
 - Geophysical and geotechnical surveys
- Offshore Energy Consents
 - Section 36 Electricity Act



Marine licensing requirements for submarine cables

- Applies to transmission, distribution and telecommunication cables
- Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, 0-12 nautical miles: marine licence required for construction of the cable and cable protection
- Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, 12-200 nautical miles: marine licence required for construction of the cable protection only
 - No marine licence required to construct an exempt offshore submarine cable
- Emergency inspection and repair of a submarine cable is exempted from marine licensing requirements, but approval from LOT is needed

Marine licensing requirements for submarine cables

- No EIA required for cables, but robust supporting information should be provided with application:
 - Environmental appraisal, including impacts on designated sites
 - Impacts on navigation safety and other marine users
 - Fisheries liaison and mitigation plan
 - Communication strategy
 - Cable burial and protection plan
 - Post construction survey plan
- All submarine cables must be buried where feasible
- Statutory Pre-Application Consultation is required if the cable crosses an inter-tidal boundary and is longer than 1853m

Cables associated with offshore renewable projects

- Require a marine licence under the MSA 2010 and/or MCA 2009 from Scottish Ministers (if the cable goes into English waters ML also required from MMO). In this instance the MMO would undertake a separate scoping exercise and consultation on the application.
- Best practice to consider export cable(s) in a single EIA with the generating station.
- If the application for the cable and generating station cannot be aligned the cable applications will require an additional EIA considering the cumulative impacts with the generating station.

Cables associated with offshore renewable projects

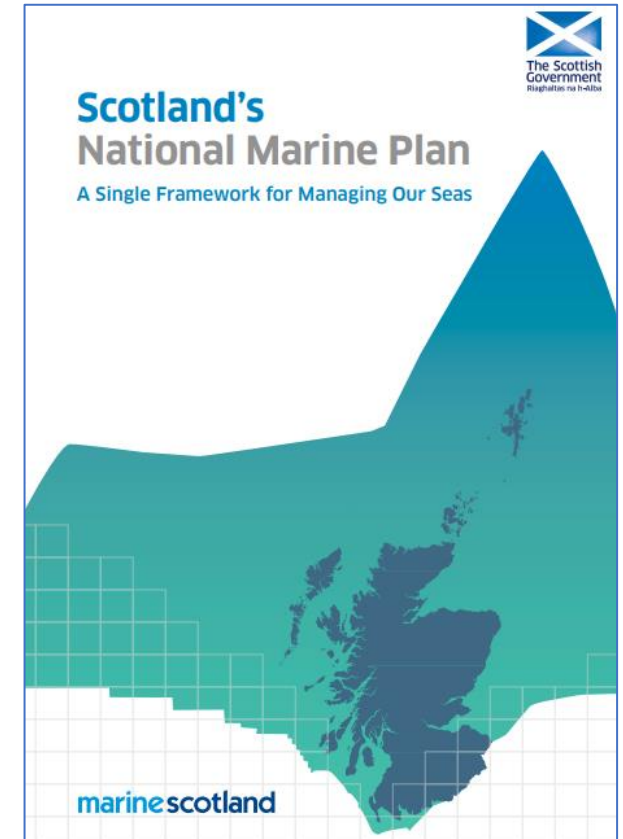
- Normally applied for separately but at the same time as the generating station ML (for later transfer to Offshore Transmission Owner - OFTO)
- We encourage collaboration on cable routes to minimise impacts on the marine environment and at landfall e.g. joint surveys
- Early engagement with key stakeholders should be undertaken e.g. Fishing industry and NatureScot to inform proposed export cable route
- For any novel approaches e.g. shared cables, early discussion with LOT is encouraged
- Consider outputs of the ScotWind Sectoral Marine Plan/Iterative Plan Review

... but it's not just about marine cables

- Connection to onshore grid is fundamental (stating the obvious but...)
- Consider timing of applications and construction activities – especially in inter-tidal/coastal environments
- Recognise the need to speed up the onshore consenting process
 - Reserved matter so engaging with UK Government on additional regulatory powers
 - Within ECU looking at feasible options – i.e. possible non statutory approaches or options available within current powers
 - Working groups set up to consider options with key stakeholders
- Contact Energy Consent Unit (ECU) and relevant Local Authority for advice
 - econsent_admin@gov.scot

Think about....

- Pre-application (formal and informal) is key to the process
 - Work with interested parties in the shared marine and terrestrial space
- Consider cumulative and in-combination impacts
- Good quality, well evidenced applications
 - Minimise post consent conditions
- Sectoral Marine Plan/Iterative Plan Review
- National Marine Plan
- Streamlining Project
- Contact LOT and ECU for advice
 - Read the advice/guidance available



Further information

- Read the guidance – updated web pages here:
 - [Marine environment: licensing and consenting requirements - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-environment-licensing-and-consenting-requirements/pages/2-introduction.aspx)
- Marine Licensing – those projects NOT directly connected to offshore energy infrastructure (interconnector, boot straps, offshore grid)
 - MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot
- Consents and Marine Licensing – Renewable Projects
 - MS.MarineRenewables@gov.scot
- Energy Consent Unit
 - econsent_admin@gov.scot