

Attachment 3.4

Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species

May 2026



Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species

The proposed Material Amendment to Condition 32 of MUL240036 does not change the Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species (Report Ref: IE001220-RPS-RP-XX-RP-EN-0004) which was submitted as part of the original MUL application.

For completeness the previously submitted [Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species \(IE001220-RPS-RP-XX-RP-EN-0004\)](#) is included in this attachment.

The proposed Material Amendment relates solely to:

- refinement of the coordination distance applied under Condition 32 for specified marine survey activities from 10 km to 6 km;

No change is proposed to:

- the nature or extent of the permitted maritime usage,
- the survey methodologies or equipment,
- the location or duration of activities,
- the mitigation measures previously assessed, or,
- the project description previously assessed under MUL240036.

The proposed amendment does not introduce any new impact pathway or alter the conclusions of the original Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species. The conclusions of the assessment therefore remain unchanged.

For the avoidance of doubt, there is no requirement in guidance published by National Parks and Wildlife Service or the European Commission to assess impacts on Annex IV Species in-combination with other plans or projects.

Statement of Authority

The Risk Assessment for Annex IV Species previously prepared by RPS on behalf of EirGrid in support of Maritime Usage Licence MUL240036 has been reviewed by suitably qualified persons in the context of the proposed material amendment to Condition 32.

The review considered whether the proposed amendment gives rise to any new or materially different impact pathways or risk to Annex IV species beyond those previously assessed.

The technical competence of the relevant reviewers is outlined below:

- **Aoife Edgely** is an Associate Marine Scientist in the Environmental Services Business Unit in Tetra Tech. She has over 14 years' experience in the marine science field and is a Chartered Environmentalist and Full Member of the Institute of Environmental Sciences (IES). Aoife holds an Honours Degree in Environmental Science from Trinity College Dublin and a Master's degree in

Marine Environmental Protection from Bangor University, Wales. She has delivered environmental assessments for a wide range of marine and coastal projects, including Environmental Impact Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, and Annex IV species assessments.

- **Niru Dorrian** is a Senior Marine Ecologist at EirGrid with 20 years' experience in marine science and offshore ecology. He is a Chartered Scientist through the Science Council, a Chartered Marine Scientist and Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST), and a Fellow of the British Ecological Society (BES). Niru holds an Honours Degree in Marine Biology from the University of Stirling and a postgraduate qualification in Environmental Clerk of Works from the University of the West of Scotland. He has supported, delivered, and managed a wide range of marine and coastal projects across the UK, Ireland, and internationally, including Appropriate Assessment, Natura Impact Statements, Annex IV Risk Assessments, wildlife licensing, and offshore ecological monitoring programmes.
- **Robert Fennelly** is Lead Senior Ecologist and Environment and Coordinator at EirGrid with 20 years' professional ecological experience including coastal and marine ecology. He is a Chartered Ecologist with and Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Robert holds an Honours Degree in Botany from Trinity College Dublin, and A Masters in Biodiversity and Conservation from the University of Exeter. He has supported, delivered, and managed a wide range of marine and coastal projects across Ireland and the UK. With specific regard to Appropriate Assessment, Robert has authored several papers on the topic, provided professional training on AA-related matters on behalf of CIEEM and lectured on AA at third level, and with Greentech Skillnet.