



Mr Gerry Clabby
Principal Advisor
Department of the Environment Climate and Communications
29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, D02 X285

Dun Laoghaire, 20 March 2023

Dear Mr. Clabby,

Subject: OREDP II Advisory Group

Following the successful joint NWWAC/PelAC Briefing on the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 held in Dun Laoghaire on 19 January ([link](#)) with the involvement of your Department, the [North Western Waters Advisory Council](#) (NWWAC) in conjunction with the [Pelagic Advisory Council](#) (PelAC), would like to reiterate its request to be included in the relevant stakeholder working groups on this topic in Ireland.

As mentioned previously, the ACs are representative and legitimate EU fisheries stakeholder bodies which are legally recognised as organisations pursuing an aim of general European interest. The NWWAC is established in Ireland and produces regular advice on its own initiative or at the request of the European Commission and the concerned Member States on all relevant matters related to fisheries management in the ICES areas 6 and 7. The PelAC, established in the Netherlands, advises the European Commission and relevant Member States on the management of pelagic stocks in all EU areas, except for the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas.

As a large part of the remit area covered by the NWWAC is in the EEZ of Ireland, our members naturally are interested in and concerned with the offshore wind energy developments in this area and their potential impacts on fisheries. Members of both ACs consist not only of both domestic and international users of the Irish marine space, but also of stakeholders with other interests. Previous work includes policy advice to the European Commission on the impact of offshore wind energy developments ([link](#)), as well as the virtual workshop on the effects of seismic and offshore wind energy developments on commercial fisheries jointly organised by both ACs in 2022([link](#)).

Given the importance and urgency of this topic for both the NWWAC and PelAC stakeholders, we kindly request inclusion of both ACs in the relevant stakeholder discussion forums, and in particular the Seafood/ORE Group. The connection to the Advisory Councils will support the stakeholder involvement on a much wider basis without any additional pressure on the Department itself as well as assist our members in keeping abreast of any developments in this area.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the work of the NWWAC or the PelAC. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards.

Emiel Brouckaert, Chairman NWWAC

Sean O'Donoghue, Chairman PelAC

