Marine Licence Applications
Report No 48. 27 February 2021

This report covers applications submitted since 1 December 2020 for work in the Solent, not included in previous reports. It excludes applications for the burial of human remains at sea.

1. Applications open for consultation

Case Information	Project Type	Project Title	Locations	Applicant Name	Submitted	Latest Decision	Consultation Closing
MLA/2020/00576 Submitted	Application - Construction of new works	Lymington shores, Bridge Road, Lymington, SO41 9BZ	Lymington River	Redrow Homes Ltd-Basingstoke	14-Dec-20		15-Mar-21

2. Summary of Applications open to Consultation

Lymington shores, Bridge Road, Lymington, SO41 9BZ
Installation of new sheet piling in front of existing retaining wall within the Lymington River. This is remedial work to an existing retaining wall as requested by the Highway Authority.

The above work is associated with a mixed used development that has largely been completed. Duration of 14 days is anticipated. Timing will be dependent of the receipt of the MMO license.

3. Summary of Applications not yet decided

MLA/2021/00005
Studland Bay Eco-moorings
The Seahorse Trust has been involved in monitoring seahorses in Studland Bay since 2009. They have identified that the mooring of leisure vessels in the Bay using traditional anchors causes damage to the seagrass beds.
Trials have taken place using an eco-mooring and these have shown the viability of such moorings. It is therefore proposed to install 10 eco-moorings in Studland Bay.

MLA/2020/00485

Solent Oyster Restoration Project - Reef deployment

Project Background

The Solent Oyster Restoration Project aims to restore the European native oyster population on a large scale. Between 1972 and 2006, the Solent supported the largest native oyster fishery in Europe. In 1978, 450 vessels, employing over 700 workers, were involved in oyster fishing and 15 million oysters were removed in that year alone. However, since this peak, the oyster population has declined significantly and in 2013 the fishery collapsed. A study commissioned by the Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE) in 2014 reported that it is biologically feasible to restore the native oyster population of the Solent. From extensive consultations, BLUE believes that an oyster restoration project will make a major contribution to national and global conservation priorities for this species. Working with local stakeholders, the project is using best practice restoration techniques from the UK and abroad to restore this valuable species and the habitat it provides. The Solent Oyster Restoration Project aims to restore native oyster reefs and the associated benefits that they bring through the following methods: Broodstock nursery cages: In order to increase the number of breeding oysters within the Solent, oysters are placed at high densities in nursery cages that are hung from existing pontoons, below the surface of the water. Easy access to these oysters allows their physiological and reproductive state to be monitored regularly. Seabed restoration: To promote natural recruitment and re-establish wild oyster reefs, sanctuary seabed sites will be created on a large scale. Oyster reefs will be placed in areas closed to commercial fishing and allowed to flourish and develop.

Programme of Works

This licence application is related to the deposits of material from a vessel in English waters for the purposes of European native oyster (Ostrea edulis) reef restoration. The intention of the project is to restore native oyster reefs through the following licensable activities: -The deposit of shells and gravels or ‘cultch’. -The deposit of juvenile oysters and spat-on-shell. The areas that have been selected for restoration lie within Langstone Harbour, Newtown Harbour and the River Hamble on the south coast of England. The full site selection process used to determine suitability for restoration is detailed in the supporting document ‘Restoration site selection’. Exact restoration site maps and coordinates have been provided in supporting documents ‘Restoration site coordinates’ and ‘Restoration site maps’. The restoration of native oyster reefs will be phased over a period of five years. Over the term of the licence, a total of 10,000 m3 of cultch and spat-on-shell and five million juvenile native oysters will be restored to the seabed (approximately 100,000kg).

MLA/2020/00529

Subhub Tidal Platform & Turbine Performance Trials at Yarmouth

Project background

Subhub is a submersible, gravity based, seabed mounted platform for tidal turbines. It is designed to support tidal turbines through life from commissioning, installation to site, maintenance and ultimately to quickly and easily decommission the turbines. The project aims are to establish the enhanced performance characteristics offered by Subhub by measuring flow speeds into the turbines both upstream and downstream and by doing so validating the numerical design models. Secondly, long term performance of the tidal turbine performance is required to provide confidence in the commercial viability of future projects. Thirdly, a new Subsea Power Control Unit will be tested with to understand how the turbines can be controlled remotely, and the availability of the turbines are important learning points. Finally, environmental monitoring equipment, specifically hydrophones, will be used to gather evidence of any environmental impact to marine fauna. The Platform Management System will record environmental loads experienced by the platform in terms forces produced by the tidal turbines and stresses within structure. The data will be correlated with the environmental conditions experienced at the time by flow measurement systems deployed in tandem with Subhub. The platform will be remotely operated from a moored barge using a service line umbilical directly connected to the Subhub platform on the seabed but can be quickly disconnected and lowered to the seabed so there are no obstructions to navigation at the surface. The clearance draft for Subhub is 9m in 17m of water depth. This project is part of an EU Interreg project called TIGER which aims to establish the tidal market and supply chain within the Channel region.