High Sea Wind

Environmental Surveys

High Sea Wind is committed to developing a 1.3 GW offshore wind farm off the coast of Gippsland, safely and sustainably. As a first step, we conduct environmental surveys and seabed investigations to study the ocean environment in detail. This helps us identify and monitor potential impacts, minimise them, and protect marine ecosystems throughout the project's lifespan.

These surveys help us to better understand the wildlife, cultural heritage, and seabed conditions so that our project design is informed by data and shaped to respect the environment. We are working closely with Traditional Owners, fishers, regulators and community groups to conduct these surveys and investigations.

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS

Completed before construction begins, these surveys explore marine biodiversity, migratory bird pathways, cultural heritage, water quality, and coastal processes.

They help us:

- Understand species presence, abundance and movement.
- Assess potential impacts and guide design decisions.
- Identify biodiversity and cultural heritage.
- Monitor changes over time – from project development to decommissioning.

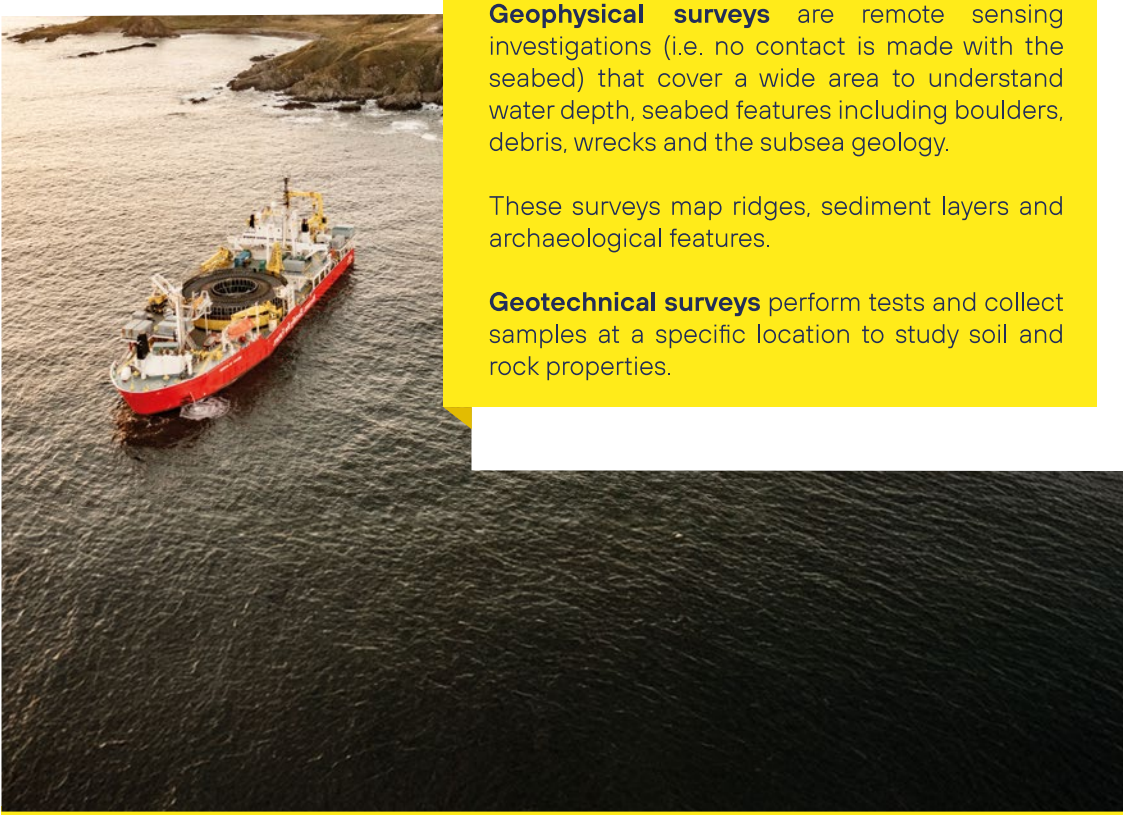
ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

We use a range of survey techniques to gather robust and meaningful data. Each method helps us to understand the unique ecosystems that surround our project area.

TYPE	PURPOSE
Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM)	Detects and records sounds made by marine mammals like whales, dolphins, and seals using underwater microphones.
Marine Mammal & Seabird Observers (MMO)	Records wildlife presence and behaviour through visual monitoring from boats.
Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV)	Observes marine life using baited underwater cameras.
Environmental DNA (eDNA)	Analyses water samples to detect species through genetic traces (eDNA).
Pelagic Fish Surveys	Tracks seasonal movement of fish in open water.
Benthic Surveys	Examines seabed habitats, sediments, and water quality.
Visual Aerial Surveys (VAS)	Captures images of seabirds and marine megafauna, such as whales and sharks, using aircraft.

SEABED INVESTIGATIONS

To safely and responsibly place turbine foundations and the subsea cables, we need a detailed understanding of the seabed conditions. This is achieved through two main types of investigations:



Geophysical surveys are remote sensing investigations (i.e. no contact is made with the seabed) that cover a wide area to understand water depth, seabed features including boulders, debris, wrecks and the subsea geology.

These surveys map ridges, sediment layers and archaeological features.

Geotechnical surveys perform tests and collect samples at a specific location to study soil and rock properties.

These studies help us decide where to place the wind turbines and cables. They also guide how we build them safely and with minimal impact.

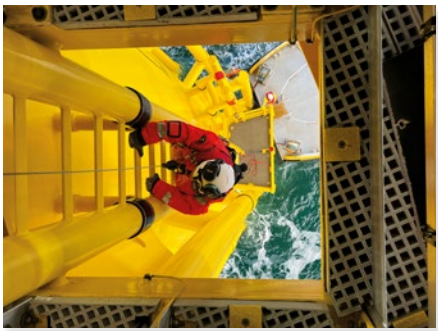
COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND COLLABORATION

We believe that meaningful engagement leads to better outcomes. That's why we:

- Engage with Traditional Owners, fishers, regulators, community groups and resource managers.
- Incorporate feedback at every stage to reflect local knowledge and aspirations.
- Provide timely, accurate and relevant updates to keep our community informed.

We are working with cultural heritage experts and Traditional Owners to identify, assess, and protect culturally significant sites, ensuring that all activities align with the Underwater Cultural Heritage Act (2018) and respect Indigenous knowledge and values.

Cultural heritage assessments will safeguard shipwrecks, submerged landscapes, and other significant underwater sites.



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Get in contact

If you would like further information, please contact us via email at **contact@highseawind.com**

You can also find further information on our website: **highseawind.com**