

Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Wind and Fisheries in Gippsland

Guiding Principles for Engagement and Coexistence

1. Purpose and Scope

Offshore wind development in Gippsland presents an opportunity to support Australia's energy transition while sharing marine space with long established commercial fishing industries operating under statutory rights.

This document sets out a **concise best practice principles framework** to guide engagement, cooperation and coexistence between offshore wind licence holders and commercial fishing rights holders in Gippsland, across all project phases.

It is intended to:

- Promote safe and sustainable sharing of marine space
- Support the avoidance and minimisation of adverse impacts on fishing rights and permits
- Provide clarity on roles and responsibilities
- Support transparent, coordinated and efficient engagement
- Align with Australian regulatory requirements and international best practice.

This guidance complements, but does not replace, legislative obligations or project specific- consultation requirements.

2. Guiding Principles

Engagement and activities should be guided by the following principles:

- **Recognition of rights** – Acknowledging the statutory rights of Commonwealth and State commercial fishing rights holders
- **Good faith engagement** – Early, ongoing and respectful engagement throughout the project lifecycle to inform project planning and decision making
- **Coexistence** – In the first instance seeking to avoid, or minimise and mitigate, direct and cumulative impacts on fishing wherever reasonably practicable
- **Transparency** – Open sharing of information, constraints and decision-making- processes
- **Proportionality** – Measures appropriate to the scale and nature of potential impacts
- **Continuous improvement** – Incorporating lessons learned and stakeholder feedback.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Offshore Wind Licence Holders

- Engaging early and continuously with affected commercial fishing rights holders or their nominated representatives
- Communicating openly, clearly (using plain language) and respectfully
- Making reasonable efforts to identify affected fishing activities and stakeholders
- Sharing relevant information on surveys, construction and operations to support safety and coordination

This information sheet has been prepared by offshore wind developers with project proposals off the Gippsland coast. Each project is unique - please contact the project/s where you fish to discuss your individual circumstances.

 Orsted

 Iberdrola
Australia
A Brighter Future

 Blue MACKEREL

 SOUTHERLY
TEN

 NAVIGATOR
NORTH

 OW
OCEAN WINDS

- Consulting with fishing stakeholders during the preparation of Management Plans and responding to issues raised
- Issuing Notices to Mariners and other appropriate notifications
- Working collaboratively to support coexistence and mutually beneficial outcomes.

Commercial Fishing Rights Holders and Representatives

Offshore wind licence holders seek for the commercial fishing industry to:

- Engage in good faith with offshore wind licence holders
- Provide, where possible, information on fishing activities, gear types and seasonality
- Share relevant knowledge or data to inform impact assessment and mitigation
- Share information, where appropriate, to support the effective planning and coordination of activities at sea.

4. Engagement and Coordination

Regulatory Engagement

Offshore wind licence holders are required to prepare Management Plans approved by the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator before undertaking licensed activities. Engagement with commercial fishing rights holders is a core component of this process and must include reasonable efforts to identify affected parties, provide sufficient information and time for feedback, and assess potential adverse impacts.

Safety and Protection Zones

Safety and protection zones will only be approved by the Offshore Infrastructure Regulator if required for safety or to protect infrastructure from damage. If a safety or protection zones is being proposed, Offshore wind licence holders commit to early communication, consultation with affected marine users, and consideration of measures to minimise impacts on fishing activities.

Collective Coordination

Gippsland offshore wind licence holders coordinate on shared matters through collective forums, including engagement with fishing stakeholders where issues are common across projects. The purpose of collective coordination is to reduce duplication, promote consistency and support collaborative solutions.

5. Engagement Standards

Offshore wind licence holders commit to:

- Keeping fishing stakeholders informed
- Listening with respect to industry knowledge and experience
- Being open and honest about information, uncertainty and constraints
- Following through on commitments and explaining outcomes
- Collaborating to identify practical solutions and/or opportunities.

6. Transparency and Review

Offshore wind licence holders will document engagement outcomes in accordance with regulatory requirements, protect confidential information, and publish summaries of approved Management Plans and engagement strategies. This guidance will be reviewed periodically, including every two years or following significant regulatory change, and updated to reflect experience and stakeholder feedback.

This information sheet has been prepared by offshore wind developers with project proposals off the Gippsland coast. Each project is unique - please contact the project/s where you fish to discuss your individual circumstances.

