

Marine Mammal Survey Information

This is a follow up communication to our notification from October 2025 about LIDAR and shark acoustic receivers. We wish to inform you of the marine mammal monitoring we will also be undertaking for the High Sea Winds Project. The monitoring is intended to start later in June (2026) with the deployment of acoustic recording stations at four locations within and near the High Sea Wind offshore feasibility licence area (FLA). Two of the stations are near to the already deployed shark acoustic receivers with the others located at distances approximately 30 km to the NNW and 20 km to the NE. The plan is for the stations to remain in place for 24-months with four to six-monthly servicing trips occurring during that time.

Details of the recording stations are provided below. To minimise potential impacts of the survey to commercial fishers the stations would be deployed with subsurface buoys and, following an assessment of fishing activity and based upon independent advice supplied by Atlantis Fisheries Consulting Group, we have chosen locations in areas of relatively light fishing activity for the main fisheries (gillnet and Danish seine), while ensuring survey requirements are also met. We have also located the stations as close as possible to the locations of the existing white shark acoustic recorders to minimise the overall footprint of our baseline surveys. Further details of this assessment of fishing activity are also provided below.

Please note that details of the survey and recording stations would be broadcast to mariners via the Australian Hydrographic Office Notice to Mariners process. We are also very happy for any feedback on the proposed locations during the design process.

1. Acoustic recording stations

A schematic of each of the four acoustic recording stations is provided in Figure 1. Each station will comprise a heavy mooring (200 kg wheel) from which the acoustic release mechanism and subsea floats will extend vertically to a height of five metres from the sea floor (a minimum of 55 metres below the sea surface). A 170m long wire ground line will also extend horizontally from the mooring to the acoustic receivers (two to allow redundancy). This separation of receivers from the mooring is required to reduce noise interference.



Figure 1-Design of the High Sea Wind acoustic recording stations

2. Assessment of commercial fishing activity and placement of acoustic recording stations

The assessment of commercial fishing activity for the period 2020 – 2024 indicated overlap between the FLA and fishing effort by four Commonwealth fisheries/sectors, including the small pelagic fishery (SPF), trawl sector (squid catch only), Danish seine sector and shark gillnet sector (sectors of the South East Shark and Scalefish Fishery; SESSF). No Victorian state fishery was active in the FLA. Of the four Commonwealth fishery/sectors, the overlap with effort by the SPF and trawl sectors was very small and as such we have focussed our review on the Danish seine and shark gillnet sectors.

Fishing effort data for the Danish seine and gillnet fisheries relative to the High Sea Wind FLA is shown in Figure 2. Also shown are the proposed locations of the four acoustic recording stations, chosen to avoid areas of high fishing effort whilst ensuring the stations are distributed to enable survey objectives to be met. The coordinates of these locations are provided in Table 1.

Site	Latitude (DD MM.mmm)	Longitude (DD MM.mmm)
1	38° 47.99808' S	147° 41.57202' E
2	38° 58.69386' S	147° 43.78614' E
3	38° 59.47398' S	47° 56.96088' E
4	38° 52.02396' S	148° 9.54906' E

Table 1-High Sea Wind PAM mooring coordinates



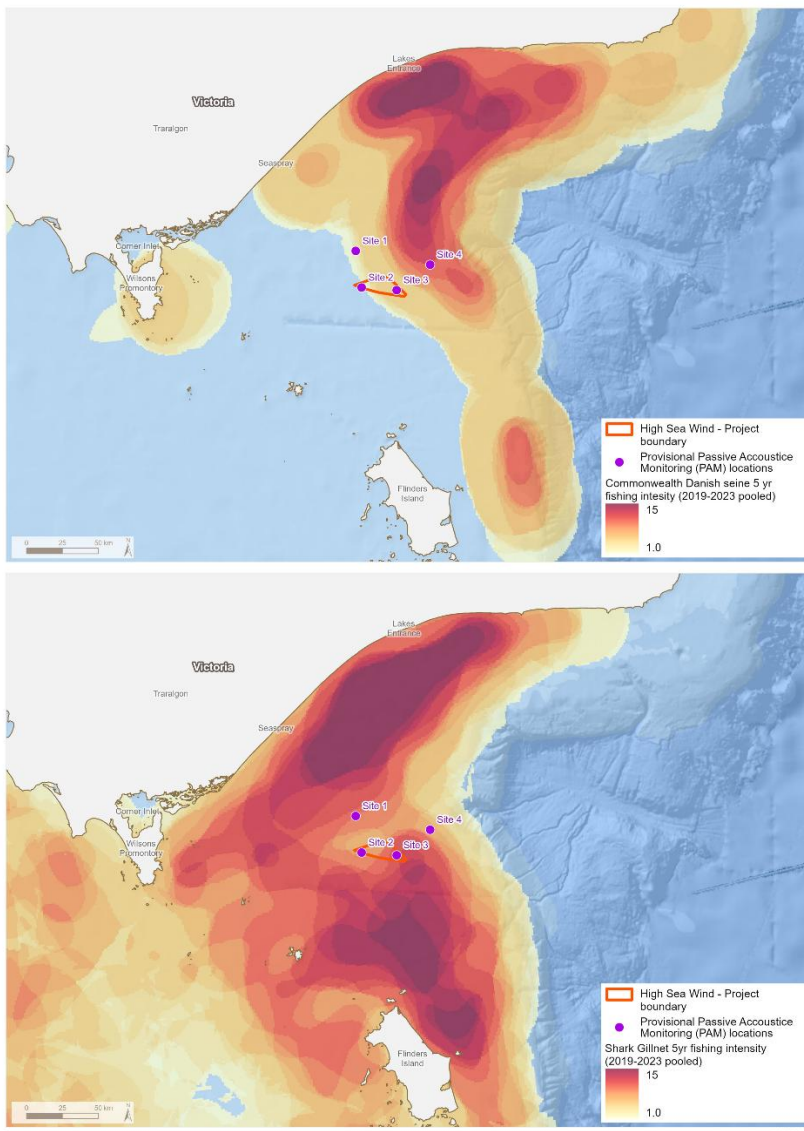


Figure 2- Area of fishing activity by (top) Danish seine and (bottom) gillnet fishers for the period 2020 – 2024 (data for each year pooled) relative to the High Sea Wind FLA and proposed locations of the four marine mammal acoustic recording stations

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the PAM locations, please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,

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