

# Notice to Mariners

## Fisheries Overtrawl Trials – February 2025

Moray West Offshore Wind Farm

<b>Issue date</b>	14-February-2025
<b>Version</b>	01
<b>Activity</b>	Fisheries Overtrawl Trials

## Revision History

<b>Version</b>	<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Updates</b>
01	14-February-2025	Final	First Issue

# 1. Introduction

This Notice to Mariners is to inform of the Fisheries Overtrawl Trials that will take place in the vicinity of the Moray Offshore Windfarm (West) Limited (Moray West) infrastructure. These works are required to assure fishermen that it is safe to resume normal fishing activities in the area following construction. The Overtrawl works will be carried out by the “Westro” supported by the Guard Vessel “Evening Star,” which are expected to arrive on site approx. 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Work duration is expected to be approximately between two days and one week, depending on weather.

The Moray West site is located on the Smith Bank in the Outer Moray Firth, approximately 22.5km from the Caithness coastline. The offshore wind farm site covers an area of approximately 225km<sup>2</sup>. The offshore wind farm site is given in Figure 1:

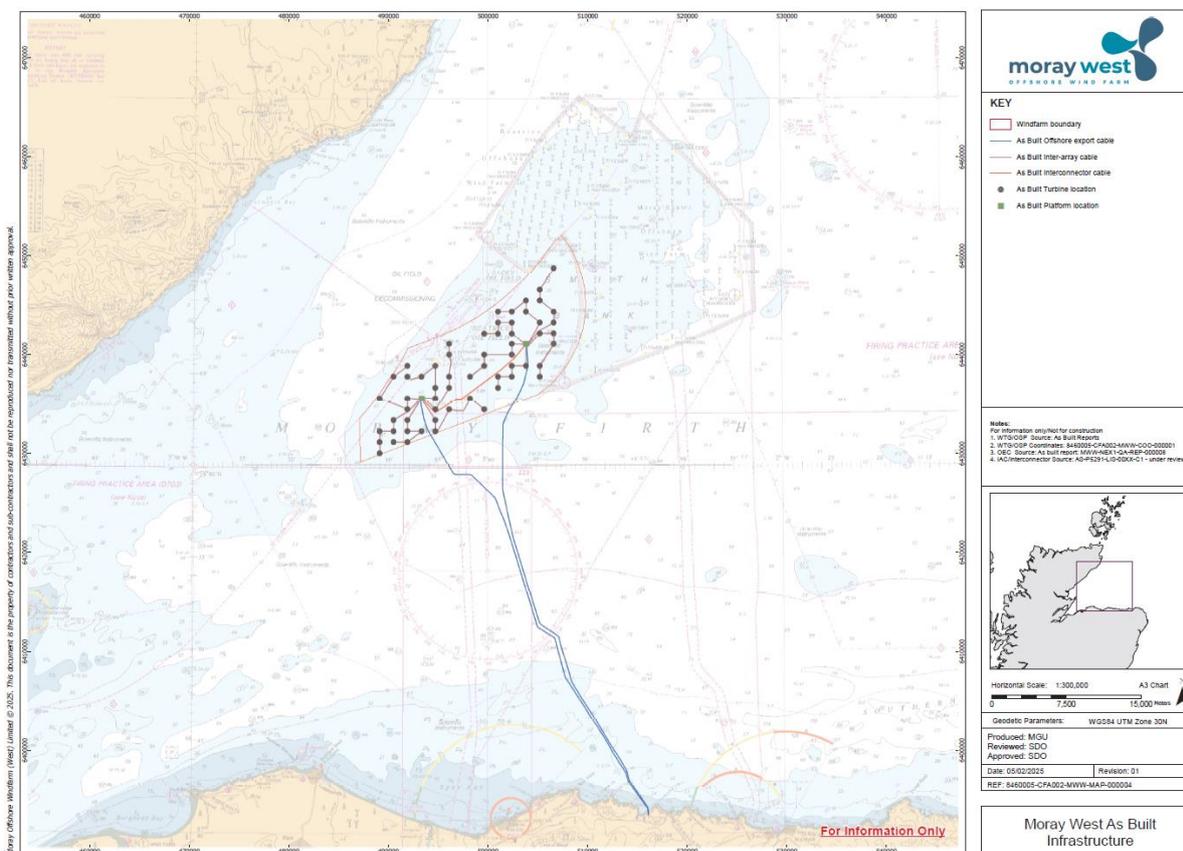


Figure 1. Moray West Wind Farm Site.

# 2. Description of Works

SFF will be utilising vessel “Westro” to conduct overtrawl trials at nine identified target areas using appropriate equipment to replicate typical fishing activity for the location (Table 1). Details of the proposed fishing gear can be found in Section 3. Any recovered items of debris will be safely stowed aboard and offloaded upon completion of the scope of work for inspection in port at client provided recycling facilities. A Guard/Support Vessel “Evening Star” will also be provided in order to keep

other vessels clear of operations and to provide assistance to the Trawl Sweep Vessel in the event of a snagging or other incident.

The Trawl Sweeps will normally be conducted in two defined operational phases:

Phase 1 – using a ‘mimic trawl’ net (may not be carried out)

Phase 2 – using suitable fishing gear relevant to the work area

The operation shall in general terms, involve the deployment of a mimic trawl and/or suitable fishing gear along the seabed within the defined area.

A benchmark trawl shall be performed in an area of clear seabed, selected from the proposed routes with no known external protection or boulders, to establish the standard performance of the trial gear, establish the expected normal towing tensions and observe the baseline seabed damage caused by the fishing gear.

The vessel will be moving throughout the wind farm area, but will concentrate trial works at the locations shown in Table 1.

ID	Coordinates (WGS84)
1	57°42.23'N, 002°45.02'W
2	57°42.88'N, 002°45.82'W
3	57°44.65'N, 002°47.60'W
4	57°44.67'N, 002°47.62'W
5	57°46.25'N, 002°49.45'W
6	57°42.46'N, 002°45.17'W
7	57°42.75'N, 002°45.55'W
8	57°43.25'N, 002°45.86'W
9	58° 10.155'N, 002° 54.011'W

Table 1. Locations of interest for the trial work

### 3. Type of fishing gear to be used

Typical Overtrawl gear consists of:

- 150m of dyneema trawl warp
- 1 set of trawl otter boards, which would be ~600kg each
- 1 set of 20mm steel wire bridles @ 75m in length covered in 75mm rubber discs
- 1 squid trawl set on 18m of 400mm rock hopper ground gear



Figure 2. Overtrawl Gear – Photos of the gear used

## 4. Vessel information

The vessel to be used for the overtrawl will be Westro supported by Guard Vessel Evening Star. Details are provided in table 2 below.

Vessel Name	Westro	Evening Star
MMSI Number	232019367	235006716
Operating Company	SFF	SFF
Vessel Call Sign	MEIH8	MNEP3
Vessel Phone Number	01779 400295	01779401099
Vessel Email Address	<a href="mailto:PDwestro@gmail.com">PDwestro@gmail.com</a>	<a href="mailto:Eveningstar1022@icloud.com">Eveningstar1022@icloud.com</a>

Table 2. Westro & Evening Star details



Figure 3. Westro – Photo of the vessel



Figure 4. Evening Star – Photo of the vessel

## 5. Developer Contacts Details

Enquiries regarding the contents of this Notice to Mariners should be directed to Moray West team (contact details below).

### Consenting

Moray West Development Team  
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### Health, Safety and Other Matters

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### Moray West Marine Coordination

Marine Coordination	Contact
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