

# Safe fishing operations & navigation



## Greater Gabbard wind farm

### Key MCA guidance

#### MGN 313 (M+F):

Safe navigational watch on fishing vessels. Reinforces the duty of skippers and watchkeepers to maintain a proper lookout at all times, especially important when operating within offshore wind farms.

#### MGN 372 Amendment 1 (M+F):

Guidance to mariners operating in the vicinity of UK Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs).

Details safety zones, transit routes, planning, and operational precautions.

#### MGN 654 (M+F):

Safety of navigation in and around Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs).

Guidance on risk assessments, passage planning, and emergency response.

### Wind farm protocol

#### Prior to entering

- Check Notice to Mariners, updated charts and temporary safety zones
- Plan transit routes carefully
- Notify Lowestoft MCC on entry/exit of site & inform of intentions

#### Within the wind farm site

- Maintain a safe distance. Turbines are spaced a min of 650m apart, respect the statutory 50m advisory safety zones
- Monitor radar and keep sharp lookout, including radio listening watch on VHF Channel 16
- Maintain regular communication with MCC whilst operating within the wind farm
- Ensure AIS is switched on and operating at full power – this is for your safety (legal requirement on all vessels >15m)



### Incident reporting procedure

For any immediate SAR support, contact HM Coastguard on 999/VHF/DSC

Be ready to use VHF channels and report any emergencies immediately

- Collisions:** Marine Guidance Note MGN 564 (M+F) – any collision must be reported to the MAIB and MCA. It is essential Lowestoft MCC is also notified
- Snagging:** Marine Guidance Note MGN 661 (M+F) – Inform the Coastguard, MCC and CFLO immediately. Follow KISORCA emergency procedures for fouling

#### Incident reporting guidelines

- Date and time
- Vessel name and number
- Position (lat, long)
- Weather conditions
- Course and speed
- Description of event
- Who was notified
- Evidence of any damage
- Person reporting the incident

#### Incident reporting contact details

Lowestoft Marine Co-ordination Centre (LCC) monitored 24hr: 01502 524001

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA): 999/Channel 16

Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB): 023 8023 2527

Gabbard Commercial Fisheries Liaison Officer (CFLO): 07760 160039 / 07590 880746

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Maritime and Coastguard Agency

