

## 2 INTRODUCTION

The North Hoyle Offshore Wind Farm (NHOWF) is located approximately 6km off the North Wales coast at Prestatyn. The wind farm, owned by NWP Offshore Ltd (NWPO), features 30 2MW turbines, generating a maximum export capacity of 60MW. Ancillary equipment offshore includes two meteorological masts. Inter-array cabling connects the turbines and two export cables connect the wind farm to the local electricity distribution network at 33kV via an onshore sub-station at Rhyl.

Consent for the project was granted in August 2002. Offshore construction commenced during March 2003, and was completed during March 2004 (with partial operation from November 2003). A programme of offshore environmental monitoring has been undertaken prior to, during and following the completion of construction works. The nature and extent of this monitoring was set out in an environmental monitoring statement (NWPO, 2002 and 2003), reflecting commitments made in the NHOWF Environmental Statement (2002) and the obligations set out by the Regulator, the Marine and Fisheries Agency (formerly Marine Consents Environment Unit, Defra), in The Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) 1985: Part II (as amended), licence reference 31579/05/0, awarded for the project.

This document describes the monitoring campaign undertaken to comply with the conditions of the FEPA Licence issued to NWPO for the NHOWF. This monitoring report updates the previous document dated January 2007 and encompasses the third year of operational monitoring (the fifth and final scheduled year of post consent monitoring). This report also summarises the results and conclusions of the five year monitoring campaign at North Hoyle, identifies data limitations and finally presents a formal proposal for the cessation of monitoring.

Whilst data collection has now ceased, agreement will additionally be needed on some aspects of data interpretation both from the NWPO monitoring and the findings of external research work such as the COWRIE funded monitoring. Such agreement is required to discharge the FEPA Licence monitoring conditions. It is proposed that the summary results of the monitoring and conclusions of the analysis are presented to the Licensing Authority and their agents.