

Not to be cited without prior reference to Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen

*MV Waterfall*

## **Survey 0323H**

### **PROGRAMME**

3-9 April 2023

**Loading:** Aberdeen, 30 March 2023

**Unloading:** Buckie, 09 April 2023

In setting the survey programme and specific objectives, etc. the Scientist-in-Charge needs to be aware of the restrictions on working hours and the need to build in adequate rest days and rest breaks as set out in Marine Scotland's Working Time Policy (Notice 34/03). In addition, the Scientist-in-Charge must formally review the risk assessments for the survey with staff on-board before work is commenced.

In the interest of efficient data management it is now mandatory to return the survey report, to I Gibb and the Survey Summary Report (old ROSCOP form) to M Geldart, within four weeks of a survey ending. In the case of the Survey Summary Report a nil return is required, if appropriate.

**Equipment:** Acoustic moorings, fish capture cages, fish recovery cages, fish tanks, fish tank pumps.

### **Objectives**

1. To complete the service of 84 fish tracking moorings in the boundaries of two Moray Firth wind farms.
2. To capture up to 300 gadoid fish in a range of sizes, tag then release them.

**Estimated Days per Project:** 7 days, PB0010

### **Windfarm locations:**

Beatrice offshore Windfarm Ltd (BOWL)

Moray East Offshore Windfarm (MEOW)

### **Procedure**

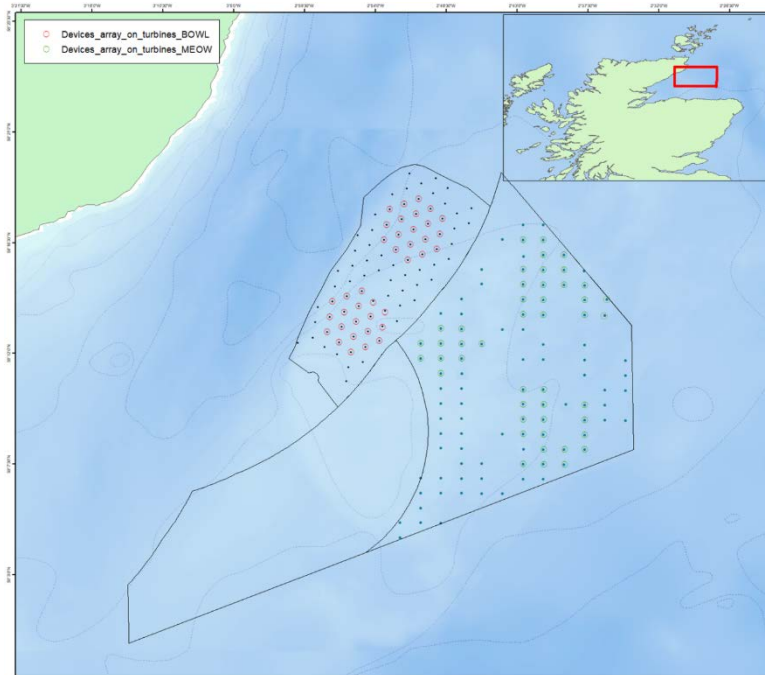
Chartered vessel *MV Waterfall* will depart from Buckie Harbour on 3 April. *Waterfall* will proceed to the windfarm and deploy the fish capture cages. Once complete, *Waterfall* will begin servicing moorings and the vessel will work out of Wick harbour, thereafter. The vessel will sail from Wick harbour to preferred fish capture locations within BOWL and MEOW, deploy fishing equipment to catch gadoids in a range of sizes and service moorings until completed.

Gadoids will be tagged internally and put into recovery cages that will be lowered to the seabed and opened using a timed mechanism after 24 hours. Captured fish will also be tagged externally to communicate their participation in this project, and ensure enhanced data returns.

The vessel aims to complete the survey and return to Buckie Harbour on 9 April and offload the equipment on the day of arrival.

The vessel will operate as a day boat with staff staying ashore at night.

Map 1 below shows the locations of the fish tracking moorings and the turbines within BOWL and MEOW.



**Map 1:** Locations for installation of fish tracking moorings in BOWL and MEOW.

Normal contact will be maintained with the Marine Laboratory.

Submitted:  
R Main  
30 March 2023

Approved:  
I Gibb  
2 April 2023