



Statement of Intent

Introduction

Crown Estate Scotland and North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) are actively working together to realise the tremendous energy and carbon storage potential of the North Sea, including maximising the co-existence potential of different technologies, which we believe is possible and can lead to significant benefits, as well as essential for meeting our collective net zero targets. The purpose of this Statement of Intent (Sol) is to confirm our joint aspirations in enabling a sustainable Blue Economy and a coordinated approach to managing the seabed, outlining the ways in which the two organisations will work together to deliver this.

Crown Estate Scotland manages the seabed and renewable energy rights within the territorial seas around Scotland and provides rights to natural resources (excluding fossil fuels), electricity generation, transport and storage of natural gas and carbon dioxide under the UK Continental Shelf. Crown Estate Scotland *'invests in property, natural resources and people to generate lasting value for Scotland'*, actively managing seabed property rights to maintain and enhance value whilst seeking to achieve sustainable development and contribute to the promotion of economic development, regeneration, social, and environmental wellbeing.

The NSTA licenses, regulates and influences the UK oil and gas, offshore hydrogen and carbon storage industries. The NSTA supports UK energy security, drives emissions reductions, and helps accelerate the transition to net zero and realise the potential of the North Sea as an integrated energy basin.

Crown Estate Scotland and the NSTA have distinct but complementary roles in relation to many aspects of offshore energy and the utilisation and management of the seabed and its resources, and seek to work together where relevant while recognising our individual remits.

This Sol and its accompanying Annexes are not legally binding, nor do they override the statutory duties and powers of either Crown Estate Scotland or the NSTA, or the law.

Common Priorities

Coordinated and sustainable marine development:

- Working together towards coordinated leasing and licensing of carbon storage, and collaborating to enable carbon capture and storage projects to be coordinated and developed effectively in Scottish waters, in support of the delivery of net zero
- Helping to meet Governments' net zero and decarbonisation targets, including net zero greenhouse gas emissions
- Maximising seabed potential, including by identifying opportunities for co-location and co-existence through our respective activities and collaborative actions, underpinning existing and future offshore energy development and investments and proactively working together to enable the deployment of subsurface CO₂ storage for the long term
- Identifying, capitalising on, and addressing key relevant opportunities and challenges facing marine industries and the environment

People and expertise:

- Using time effectively to ensure operational interfaces foster collaborative, transparent working practices
- Making best use of our respective teams' knowledge and expertise to achieve the best possible outcomes and to support each other where our skills are strongest

Data and evidence:

- Making the best use of available data and evidence, including mutually sharing data in line with confidentiality requirements to support joint coordination of respective activities
- Working together, and with other partners, to improve the evidence base, identifying gaps and commissioning studies where relevant to support robust, scientifically sound, evidence-based decision making in our respective organisations

Digital tools and platforms:

- Identifying opportunities to accelerate the digital maturity of the offshore energy sector e.g. through the Offshore Energy Digital Strategy Group
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- Ensuring data is efficiently delivered and hosted on relevant platforms (Marine Data Exchange, National Data Repository, operational GIS data, etc.) with minimal duplication and consistent standards where appropriate to promote data sharing across offshore industries and joint leasing and licensing

Common Challenges

- Addressing co-location challenges between key sectors, including assessing technical viability, in an increasingly busy sea space
- Supporting CCUS developments around Scotland and helping to meet carbon storage targets, while considering other energy sectors, marine industries, sea users and the natural environment
- Coordinating and streamlining respective processes of Crown Estate Scotland and the NSTA to ensure understanding and alignment
- Accelerating data and digital maturity, maintaining consistent data quality and addressing evidence gaps to ensure lessons learnt inform future work
- Addressing challenges and opportunities for the reuse and repurposing infrastructure for alternate uses
- Collaborating on electrification of offshore platforms for oil and gas and carbon storage operations, particularly through integration with offshore wind

Shared Values

Collaborative:

- work collaboratively on strategic solutions to common challenges, recognising and understanding each other's respective priorities, ambitions and drivers

Evidence-based:

- participate in effective and regular cross-organisation engagement and sharing of data and evidence as appropriate

Transparent:

- work towards a “no surprises” approach to sharing of information between our organisations, including commitment towards sharing communications where appropriate

Non-exclusive:

- seek to support one another to work effectively with other partners with shared objectives

In practice

We intend to implement the intent set out above through various relevant operating principles and mechanisms. In practice we expect these to be codified through ancillary documents to this Sol.

We undertake to meet periodically to review progress against this Sol and any related ancillary documents and to address any gaps identified through this process as necessary.

May 2025