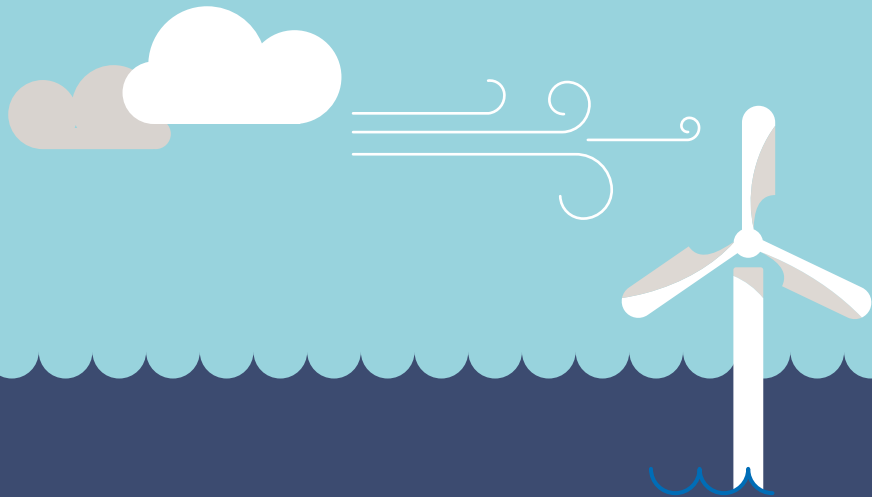


ScotWind Leasing

Seabed leasing for new offshore wind farms

September 2019 update



Our objectives for ScotWind Leasing are: to provide certainty and clarity to attract investment; be transparent, open and fair; stimulate competition and innovation; and allow early engagement with stakeholders.

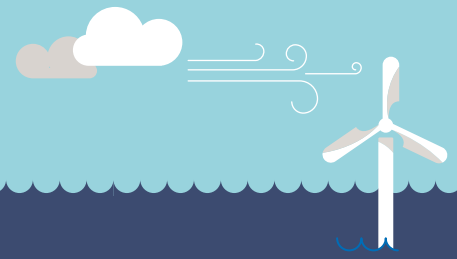
Following the most recent engagement and feedback on our July pre-launch information, we are now able to provide an update on our proposed timings for the launch and roll out of ScotWind Leasing.

The closer our leasing timescales align with Marine Scotland's Sectoral Marine Plan ("SMP"), the more likely it is that developers will have the right information at the right time to aid decision-making. Given that it is the final SMP that will provide developers with certainty regarding best locations for projects, we see clear benefits for developers in connecting the leasing launch with the publication of the Draft SMP; and with the closing date for applications coming after the SMP is finalised and adopted.

In July 2019 we indicated our intention to launch in October 2019, with the final timings directly linked to the development of the SMP. To ensure full alignment with SMP development and take into account Marine Scotland's ongoing work on the Plan we will not launch ScotWind Leasing in October 2019.

Fully aligning our Leasing with the Sectoral Marine Plan process delivers the objectives of ScotWind Leasing, and reflects stakeholder feedback, by:

- Ensuring maximum transparency and fairness from the very beginning of the process.
- Ensuring that ScotWind Leasing applicants can take the whole SMP development process into account in their applications.
- Giving confidence to the sector and wider stakeholders that they have full sight of the best locations at the time of finalising applications to ScotWind Leasing.
- Directly accounting for the environmental considerations in the SMP assessments and allowing applicants to benefit from the strategic analysis undertaken by Marine Scotland.



- Introducing additional certainty for those awarded rights through ScotWind Leasing.
- Giving a confident basis to award seabed rights for the best sites in Scotland for fixed foundation projects and world-class locations for floating wind projects.

Updated timescales, reflecting stakeholder feedback, are:

- ScotWind Leasing launched following publication of Marine Scotland's Draft SMP, which is expected¹ in Autumn 2019.
- Applicants to complete registration shortly after launch.
- We intend the closing date for applications to be around four weeks after the Adopted SMP is available, but we will ensure that our final timelines allow sufficient time for applications to be prepared.
- Second cycle of leasing launched approximately two years after completion of the first cycle.

We will provide further detail on the ScotWind Leasing launch date, and the work which is currently being undertaken towards that, no later than November 2019.

1. <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/publication/2019/09/protecting-scotlands-future-governments-programme-scotland-2019-20/documents/governments-programme-scotland-2019-20/governments-programme-scotland-2019-20/govscot%3Adocument/governments-programme-scotland-2019-20.pdf>