

[REDACTED]
The Energy and Water Agency

17th April 2024

Malta's National Policy for the Development of Offshore Renewable Energy (PORE): SEA Environment Report - Consultation in terms of Regulation 7 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (SL549.61)

Dear [REDACTED]

The Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the SEA Environment Report on the National Policy for the Deployment of Offshore Renewable Energy (PORE).

The main issues highlighted by ERA as part of the SEA process have been largely addressed in the Environmental Report. ERA notes the conclusions of the Environment Report and concurs that Area 3 (refer to Annex 1) is the most preferred site in view of its least environmental impacts. ERA would like to make these two recommendations:

1. The section of *SEA Environment Report Recommendations* broadens the avoidance of cable routing to all sensitive habitats rather than limit to *P. oceanica* and maerl only.
2. Section 5.7.1 be revised to clarify that the 35.5% of marine protected areas refers to 25NM rather than limited to territorial waters which extend to 12NM.

The ERA supports the inclusion of the recommendations of the SEA Environment Report in the final PORE to ensure that environmental impacts are suitably addressed through the preparation of area-level mitigation measures. The ERA looks forward to being engaged in such processes.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Kevin Mercieca
Chief Executive Officer
Environment and Resources Authority



Annex 1

Potential areas for offshore renewable energy identified in the PORE policy and assessed in the SEA Environment Report

