



Freedom of Information

Request 202012

Data held in the Marine Noise Registry (MNR) database

For a Link to the FOI/EIR page visit:

<https://jncc.gov.uk/about-jncc/corporate-information/access-to-information/>

For further information about the Joint Nature Conservation Committee visit:

<http://jncc.gov.uk/>

Number of FOI 202012

Request

This email contains an access to information request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004, and a re-use request made under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015.

Please provide a copy of all data held in the Marine Noise Registry (MNR) database, other than personal data.

The MNR is described on JNCC's legacy website at <http://archive.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=7070> and the data I am referring to is the data described as "raw data" in JNCC's Information Document at http://archive.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/MNR_InfoDoc_V1.0_20160907.pdf.

According to the Information Document, the "raw data" is available on request and Cabinet Office requires any data within the MNR (other than personal data) to be made publicly available under the Open Government Licence.

The MNR database is also described in a schema here: https://github.com/jncc/noiseregistry/blob/master/public/docs/JNCC_Marine_Noise_Registry_Schema_20150220.pdf

Assuming that schema remains accurate, my request covers the contents of all tables and fields other than the AppUser and OrgUser tables and the contact fields in the Organisation table.

Please provide the above information in a re-usable format and file type such as CSV or XLSX.

Please also provide any data dictionary or other information held by JNCC that defines or explains any field or column headings in the data provided. However: there is no need to provide this data dictionary or other information if the content is materially the same as that provided to me in JNCC's response of 15/07/2019.

The re-use request is as follows:

I would like to request, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, permission to re-use all information provided in response to the above access to information request for the purpose of combining that information with data from existing open public datasets and making the outputs available to others in a re-usable electronic form under an open licence. I therefore request that JNCC grants permission to re-use the information for this purpose under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3 (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>). Given my intended use, any more restrictive licensing terms would be likely to "unnecessarily restrict" the way in which the information can be re-used, contrary to RoPSIR regulation 12.

Thank you for your attention to these requests.

Reply

Thank you for your request for information, received by JNCC on Wednesday 24 June 2020, which we have dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

With our apologies for the delay.

Please find attached a ZIP file containing fifteen CSV documents, which contain the data requested (extracted on 31/07/2020), an XLSX file containing the data dictionary (data_dictionary_MNR_RawData_2020Aug v3) and an associated DOCX file (MNR_datacaveats_20200811).

Please note that within the 'organisation' file, we have redacted some names from the column labelled 'organisation_name', as the information displayed referred to an individual, rather than an organisation, due to the activities recorded being linked to solo-operator companies or personal projects.

We would also direct you to the 'caveats/limitations' document in the ZIP file, the content of which is reproduced below and relates to proposed use of the data that JNCC has provided.

The primary purpose of the Marine Noise Registry (MNR) is to collect data on the distribution in time and space of activities generating low- to mid-frequency impulsive noise across UK seas. These data will enable the creation of noise maps and will inform research on whether current levels of noise are having an adverse effect on the marine environment. It may also be used for planning and management purposes in the future. The MNR collates data on proposed and actual activities in UK waters. The majority of submissions to the MNR will be those licensed by the following regulatory bodies: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Marine Scotland (MS), Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The MNR will also collect data on relevant noise-generating activities that are not licensed as voluntary notifications, including activities carried out by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

For more information about the MNR please visit the [JNCC MNR webpage](#), which contains additional information on the MNR, including the [UK Marine Noise Registry: Information Document](#). There is also the [MNR schema](#), available through GitHub, which demonstrates the links between the different data tables provided.

Also visit www.data.gov.uk for example outputs JNCC has produced using the data held in the MNR for calendar years [2015](#), [2016](#), [2017](#) and [2018](#).

The data released under the FOI will also be released as Open Data on the JNCC website and data.gov.uk

Activity Data Caveats and Limitations

Ensure when opening CSV files they are imported with the columns in the correct format; see data dictionary for data type information.

The 'forward look'/proposed activity data represents estimated, planned information regarding the activities. The primary purpose for collecting proposed activity data is to create a list of planned activities and their expected end dates. End dates are used to set deadlines for the submission of backward look data (via a close-out report), a set number of weeks after the expected end date. This will ensure the Marine Noise Registry (MNR) receives close-out reports for all, known, completed activities in a timely manner. Proposed data is also used as a quality check for the close-out report.

- **The input of *draft* and *proposed* activity data to the MNR may occur at any point before, during or after the activity takes place.** Due to variations in how proposed activity data are submitted to the MNR by different regulators, it is possible that some proposed activities may not be included within the MNR until during or after an activity has already taken place. It is therefore important to note that 'proposed activities' data within the MNR is likely to be incomplete.
- **If an activity was consented pre-2016, the licence will not have included a condition to input data to the MNR** (e.g. windfarms and long-term projects). JNCC attempts to collect this data on a voluntary basis from developers.

- **Proposed activities might never happen.** It is possible that an application is submitted to the regulator, the proposed activity data is input to the MNR but the activity is not carried out for reasons not recorded within the MNR.
- **All data is subject to change at any point until the status of the application is *closed*.** This could include any information on the sound source, the days in which the activity took place, where the activity took place, *etc.*
- **Proposed activities' start and end date represent the interval the activity is planned to occur and not the total duration which is often shorter.** For example, seismic surveys can apply for a 6-month licence to cover the period when the activity will occur, however, the survey itself may only require 1 or 2 days for completion. The start / end date interval also accounts for contingency time, for example, weather down time and equipment availability. Therefore, the proposed application time period often overestimates the number of days the activity is planned to occur on and only the *closed* data accurately represents the activity duration.
- **The most up to date information on proposed activity is available from the corresponding regulators.** Data input and updates made to the MNR are not immediate and in some circumstances may take some time between an application being submitted to the regulator (or updated) and data input to the MNR.
- **Potential missing activity data.** The voluntary and non-licensed nature of submissions to the MNR from some activities results in information from some noise events not being recorded. These are thought to represent a small proportion of noise events in UK seas. Missing data may include:
 - All classified MoD active sonar, active sonar check, and explosive data. The MoD is not obliged to submit data to the MNR but submits unclassified close-out data on a voluntary basis.
 - Active sonar use by non-UK military in UK seas.
 - Non-licensable geophysical surveys (non-oil and gas surveys e.g. some pre-installation surveys for offshore renewables).
 - Some small-scale impact pile driving events where there is currently no licensing condition to submit data to the MNR e.g. conducted by the oil and gas industry, and coastal pile driving events categorised as band 1 or 2 by the MMO (voluntarily submitted).
 - Acoustic Deterrent Devices (ADDs) used at fish farms (not currently licensed).
 - ADDs used as mitigation for example for pile driving activities, as these are voluntarily input^[1] to the MNR. However, where ADDs are used in mitigation for other impulsive noise generating activities such as explosive detonation and impact pile driving, inclusion of ADDs is unlikely to affect the pulse block days calculated^[2].
 - Late completion or entries to the MNR, e.g. a close-out report was not completed in time for publication of this data.

Known yearly close-out data specific caveats:

- **2020:**
 - No input specific caveats for 2020 close-out data.
- **2019:**
 - No input specific caveats for 2019 close-out data.
- **2018:**
 - No input specific caveats for 2018 close-out data.
- **2017:**
 - No input specific caveats for 2017 close-out data.

- **2016:**
 - A survey using sub bottom profiling equipment recorded in blocks 52/28, 52/29, 52/30, 53/21, 53/22, 53/23, 53/26, 53/27, 53/28, 56/3 did not have exact dates for which the survey was carried out on, therefore all days between the start and end date were recorded. This is an overestimation in number of days that the survey was carried out on.
 - Pile driving activity data was not input to the MNR in relation to the construction of Dudgeon offshore wind farm. Installation was carried out between April and August 2016^[3].
 - Unexploded ordnance disposal related to Rampion Wind Farm development carried out in 2016 is missing from the MNR.
 - Missing a seismic survey carried out in Welsh inshore waters^[4].

- **2015:**
 - MoD data is partial; data included is from May to December 2015.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence, as described in JNCC's [Open Data Policy](#) (version 1 May 2018).

Notes:

^[1] Unless otherwise stipulated in licence conditions

^[2] If two or more noise events were to be carried out on the same day in the same oil and gas block the calculated pulse block day value would equal 1.

^[3] <http://dudgeonoffshorewind.co.uk/news/notice-to-mariners>

^[4] Up to 12 nautical miles from the coastline.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email (and attachment). If you require any further detail please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint please contact Kirsty Meadows (kirsty.meadows@jncc.gov.uk).

If you are still not satisfied following this, you can make an appeal to the Information Commissioner who is the statutory regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
 Wycliffe House
 Water Lane
 Wilmslow
 Cheshire
 SK9 5AF
 Telephone: 08456 30 60 60
 01625 54 57 45
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

John Henson Webb

John Henson Webb
Communications and Corporate Affairs Officer
 BSc (Hons)
 JNCC, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough, PE1 1JY
 Tel: 01733 866801, Direct Dial: 01733 866844
 Email: john.hensonwebb@jncc.gov.uk



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JNCC have been monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19 closely and developed a response plan. As a result, the vast majority of our staff are working from home and adhering to the government's advice on social distancing and travel restrictions. Whilst we are taking these actions we are available for business as usual. We will respond to enquiries as promptly as possible. However, there may be some delays due to the current constraints and we ask for your understanding and patience.