

## Notice to Mariners

The following Notice to Mariners is published for general information.

### Australia – Victoria

## SOUTH GIPPSLAND – THE STAR OF THE SOUTH PROJECT SURVEY ACTIVITIES

The Star of the South Project is Australia's first proposed offshore wind project – located off the south coast of Gippsland near Port Albert.

We are preparing to undertake a passive acoustic monitoring program for vocalising marine mammals, which will involve placement of underwater acoustic recorders (and associated moorings) on the seabed. The intention of this notice is to give an overview of activities and vessels involved.

**Notice issue date:** 6 March 2020

**Scheduled time / date of operation**

**Deployment of loggers:** Two days between 5 March 2020 and 9 March 2020

**Maintenance of loggers:** Two days between 13 July 2020 and 24 July 2020

**Recovery of loggers:** Two days between 14 December 2020 and 20 December 2020

**SOTS reference:** 200306-SOTS-CTH-APP-NTM-Noise-Rev0

**AUS charts and publications affected:** AUS 357

#### General details:

Mariners are advised that we intend to deploy eight (8) subsea passive acoustic monitoring recorders (loggers) and their associated moorings on the seabed off the south coast of Gippsland. The recorders will be placed at the locations specified in the table below and shown on the Survey Plan.

| Monitoring Site | Latitude (S) deg & min. | Longitude (E) deg & min. |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| SW Corner       | 38 50.826               | 146 55.987               |
| Tracking SE     | 38 52.347               | 146 55.276               |
| Tracking SW     | 38 51.107               | 146 53.940               |
| Tracking NW     | 38 51.427               | 146 55.068               |
| Tracking NE     | 38 50.201               | 146 45.982               |
| NE Corner       | 38 42.145               | 147 6.097                |
| Offshore-1      | 38 58.726               | 147 3.301                |
| Offshore-2      | 39 4.368                | 147 14.281               |

The vessel *Dell Richey II* is expected to be in the area for two days between 5 March and 9 March 2020 to install the loggers, with a 6 monthly service (approximately for two days between 13 July 2020 and 24 July August 2020), and then recovery of all recorders approximately for two days between 14 December 2020 to 20 December 2020.

The acoustic loggers will sit on the seabed and will remain on the seabed until recovery of the loggers planned in December 2020. All moorings will be sub-sea with the top of the sub-surface floats a minimum of 12-15 m below the sea surface at the shallowest monitoring sites. Note that the clearance between the sub-surface float and the sea surface at the deeper monitoring sites will be larger.

Survey activities will include placing a tracking grid of acoustic instruments with hydrophones and the use of a once a day ping sequence from an acoustic release in the triangle center. The survey will be carried out within the boundary of the Star of the South study area, the coordinates of which are presented below.

The vessel *Dell Richey II* will transit from and return to Devonport, Tasmania.

**Preliminary timeline of the operations:**

| Date                         | Operation  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 4/03/2020 to 9/03/2020       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depart Port Devonport – 1 day transit to Star of the South study area.</li> <li>• Baseline Noise Survey- Noise Logger Deployment – 2 days onsite within the Star of the South study area.</li> <li>• Return to Port Devonport – 1 day transit to port.</li> </ul> |
| 13 July 2020 to 24 July 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depart Port Devonport – 1 day transit to Star of the South study area.</li> <li>• Baseline Noise Survey- Noise Logger Deployment – 2 days onsite within the Star of the South study area.</li> <li>• Return to Port Devonport – 1 day transit to port.</li> </ul> |
| 14/12/2020 to 20/12/2020     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depart Port Devonport – 1 day transit to Star of the South study area.</li> <li>• END OF OPERATION - Collect Noise Loggers, 2 days onsite within the Star of the South study area.</li> <li>• Return to Port Devonport – 1 day transit to port.</li> </ul>        |

**Vessel details:**

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| General description                 | <i>Dell Richey II</i> |
| Call sign                           | VM4068                |
| MMSI                                | 503016050             |
| Communications details (4 G mobile) | 0428 140 351          |
| Onshore representative              | Stuart Richey         |



**General safety advice:**

All vessels engaged in the noise survey activity will exhibit appropriate lights and shapes prescribed by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea; relative to their operations. All vessels engaged in the activity will also transmit an Automatic Identification System (AIS) message.



**MARINERS ARE ADVISED** to navigate with caution in the vicinity of the acoustic logger locations (refer to table of coordinates and Survey Plan below).

**ALL VESSELS ARE KINDLY REQUESTED** not to interfere with the acoustic loggers at any time. Any vessels involved in fishing activities (or other activities) that could disturb the seabed in the area of the loggers are advised to operate with caution and to avoid any potentially damaging activities at the acoustic logger locations.

If you become entangled with our equipment or have an accident, contact emergency services and at the earliest convenience, please also notify the Star of the South Project on:

**1800 340 340** or email [info@starofthesouth.com.au](mailto:info@starofthesouth.com.au)

**Further notice:**

Further notice will be issued 48 hours to AMSA's JRCC before the works begin.

**Further Information:**

For further information please contact the Star of the South Project on:

1800 340 340 or email [info@starofthesouth.com.au](mailto:info@starofthesouth.com.au)

**Survey Area Plan**

