

Geophysical surveys

Blue Mackerel feasibility licence area, Bass Strait

11 November to end-2024

The Blue Mackerel offshore wind project will undertake geophysical surveys to map the seabed within its 163km² licence area in the Bass Strait, west of the coastline near the towns of Seaspray and Giffard.

Weather permitting, the geophysical surveys will be completed over 40 operational days between 11 November and the end of 2024.

These surveys will help inform detailed planning, environmental and engineering assessments that will be completed over the next four years.

What is involved

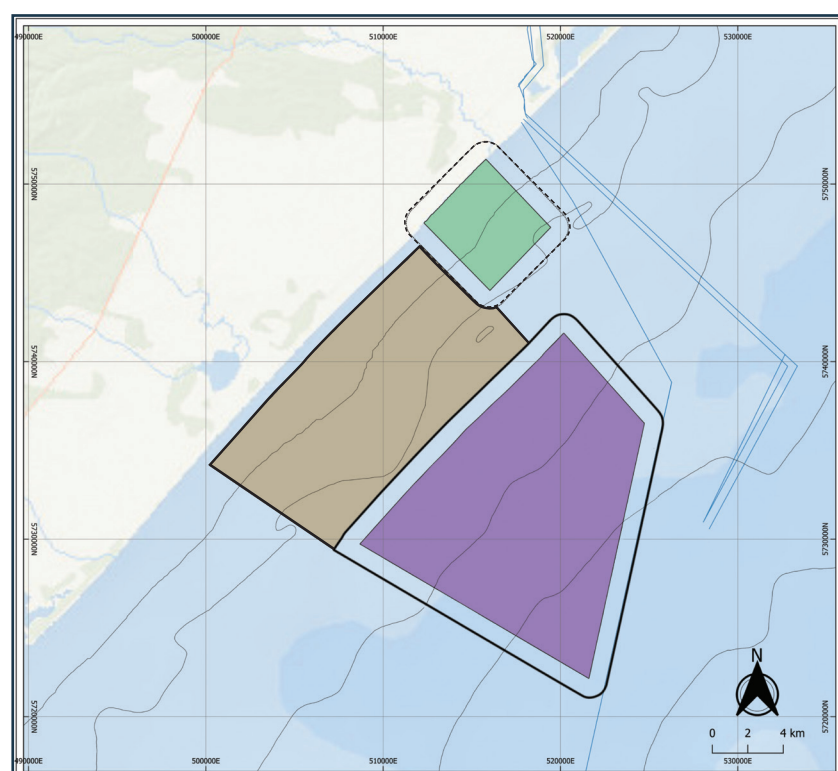
Two vessels towing sonar equipment will map the ocean floor using low sound equipment, magnetic surveys and hydrographic surveys. This equipment sends out soundwaves and pulses, and monitors the returned reflections. This enables our team to build up a complete picture and imagery of the seafloor.

This technology is commonly used by recreational, commercial and research vessels to map the seabed or navigate shallow waters. Our geophysical surveys differ from offshore petroleum and gas seismic surveys which can use higher intensity noise sources to penetrate many kilometres below the ocean floor.

A larger vessel with up to 16 people on board will depart from Port Anthony and work in the deeper waters within the project's licence area as well as the electricity cable route area.

A smaller vessel with up to 5 specialists on board will depart from McLoughlins Beach and work in the shallower waters closer to the shoreline.

The equipment will be towed behind the vessel below the surface gathering and transmitting data back to the vessel for review and analysis.



Legend

-  Project feasibility licence area
-  Survey Area 1 - project licence area with 1km buffer
-  Survey Area 2 - area for potential electricity cable routes
-  Avoidance area
-  Ninety Mile Beach Marine National Park
-  Pipeline
-  Bathymetry contour 10m

What you can expect

- A Notice to Mariners has been issued for marine users.
- Mobilisation activities for the larger vessel occurring from 4th November at Port Anthony, to enable vessel launch on 11th November. This vessel will remain at sea for the duration of its survey activities.
- The smaller vessel will launch and berth at McLoughlins Beach on each day of operation.
- There will be low-levels of underwater noise during the surveys, and divers are requested to maintain a distance of 500m from the survey activities.
- Strict environmental controls will be in place including onboard Marine Mammal Observers and passive acoustic monitors to detect presence of marine mammals in the survey area.
- Specialists from the Blue Mackerel team and our subcontractor REACH Subsea will be working on the vessels.



Offshore Surveyor will work in the deeper waters



Special Order will work in the shallower waters

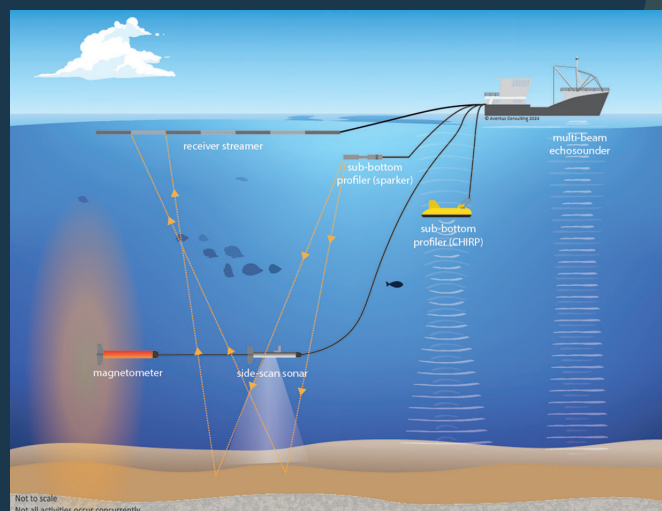


Image not to scale, for illustrative purposes only

About the Blue Mackerel offshore wind project

The proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project is located off the coast of Brataualung and Tatungalung Country, Gippsland, approximately 10km from Seaspray, Victoria.

Subject to approvals, Blue Mackerel would deliver its planned capacity of 1GW of renewable energy by 2032. That's enough to provide over half a million Victorian homes with green power.

The project is at the beginning. JERA Nex, through its wholly owned subsidiary Parkwind was awarded a feasibility licence in April 2024. This allows for investigation of the project in more detail over the coming years.

Connect



Get in touch with us

call **+613 9021 0602**, email **info@bluemackerel.com.au** or visit **www.bluemackerel.com.au**

Sign up for updates using the QR code

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of the land and waters where the proposed Blue Mackerel offshore wind project will be located. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We aspire to a genuine partnership with the Gunaikurnai people that delivers mutual benefit and enhanced stewardship of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

We acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of all First Nations peoples for their lands and waters where we operate.