

## ORJIP Ocean Energy: Steering Group Meeting 2

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016, 1000 - 1530

The Crown Estate, 16 New Burlington Place, London, W1S 2HX

### Attendees

Name	Organisation
Rosie Kelly (RK)	The Crown Estate
John Robertson (JR)	The Crown Estate
Tim Carter (TC) (by phone for Round Table session only)	Tidal Lagoon Power
Wendy Dodds (WD)	Tidal Lagoon Power
Cara Donovan (CD)	Atlantis Resources Ltd
Clodagh McGrath (CM)	DP Energy
Kate Smith (KS)	Natural Resources Wales
Rob Main (RM)	Marine Scotland
George Lees (GL) (by phone)	Scottish Natural Heritage
Joe Kidd (JK)	ORJIP OE Secretariat, MarineSpace
Ian Hutchison (IH)	ORJIP OE Secretariat, Aquatera
Jude Hamilton (JH)	ORJIP OE Secretariat, Aquatera

Item	Action
RK (Chair) welcomed attendees and provided housekeeping overview	None
<b>Update from Steering Group</b> Attendees were asked to provide feedback on the programme so far. Key points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tidal range workshop would be useful (WD)</li> <li>- Forward Look provides a common focus for research (KS)</li> <li>- Need to consolidate findings into useful outputs i.e. position papers (KS) – IH noted that the Annex IV State of the Science report will be available soon</li> <li>- Important to engage DECC; particularly the SEA programme which has funds (GL)</li> <li>- Need to engage MOD as a stakeholder (CM)</li> </ul>	Engage DECC and attend DECC SEA funding event(s) – IH/JK Invite MOD to join Network – JH
<b>Update from Secretariat</b> JK and IH provided an update on progress to date (refer to attached presentation)	None

Item	Action
<b>Collision risk workshop at ICOE</b> IH provided an update on the Network event being held in partnership with Annex IV, ORE Catapult and EIMR.	Issue invitations to CM and CD – IH
<b>Coordination of databases, links between data and end users</b> CM enquired whether ORJIP OE could help improve links between data and end users etc. Potential links between TCE held data, the Wave and Tidal Knowledge Network, MEDIN and Annex IV's Tethys database were discussed.	Coordinate a discussion between database managers/holders, strengthen links and raise awareness – Secretariat
<b>Steering Group Roundtable Update</b> Attendees were asked to provide an update on their activities relevant to ORJIP OE. These activities will be referenced in the Forward Look as appropriate. Key points are attached in Appendix A.	Include ongoing activities in the Forward Look – Secretariat
It was agreed to produce a 'map' to explain the links between ORJIP OE and other strategic organisations/programmes i.e. ORELG	Produce 'map' – Secretariat  Determine how ORJIP OE can interact with ORELG – RK Confirm if JK can present at the next ORELG meeting – RK
The importance of design envelopes in consenting was highlighted. IH suggested making this the focus of the next Network Event.	Progress idea – Secretariat and KS
<b>Update on the Forward Look</b> IH provided an overview of the updated Forward Look. Key points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Good response to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Evidence; all responses incorporated in the Forward Look</li> <li>- It was agreed to include 'recommended actions' in relation to key consenting issues in additional to recommended strategic research projects e.g. call for guidance document, focus workshop</li> <li>- The Forward Look 2 will be finalised following the Steering Group meeting and issued to the Network</li> </ul>	Update the Forward Look - Secretariat

Item	Action
<b>Break-out sessions</b> IH explained the objectives of the break-out sessions and allocated positions to the attendees. Group 1 focused on how to maximise monitoring opportunities around current and upcoming deployments including TEL at Ramsey Sound and SME at EMEC. Group 2 focused on the Forward Look; identifying potential research projects, reviewing projects previously put 'on hold' and how to incorporate 'actions' and recommendations around consenting and guidance.  <i>Outputs from the break-out sessions will be incorporated into the Forward Look 2.</i>	Update the Forward Look with the outputs from the break-out sessions – Secretariat  Include actions from the Cardiff Demo Zone workshop report in the Forward Look – IH to arrange a call with KS and RK
<b>Steering Group and Network</b>	
All agreed to invite ORE Catapult onto the Steering Group	IH to issue invitation (complete and ORE Catapult has accepted)
N/A	Identify new contact for DECC - RK
All agreed to move Wave Energy Scotland and North Wales Tidal from the Steering Group to the Network	JH to amend Network list
JR enquired whether Nova Innovations and OceanFlow were involved in ORJIP OE	Make contact with both companies – Secretariat
<b>Funding opportunities</b> JK provided an overview of upcoming funding opportunities for projects (see attached presentation)	IH to attend INTERREG workshop in Edinburgh with Lucy Law
RK discussed potential funding to continue the Secretariat function with the Steering Group, confirming that TCE had allocated budget to contribute to this.	RK to speak with Marine Scotland and Welsh Government regarding funding RK to issue a briefing note to the Steering Group outlining options for the future of the Secretariat function

## APPENDIX A : ROUND TABLE UPDATE ON RELEVANT ACTIVITIES FROM THE STEERING GROUP

### SNH (GL)

- SNH have severe funding constraints this year. Spending freeze at present so unable to commit funds to any significant new projects. Focussing on providing small funds (in region of £5k to £10k) to partnership projects.
- Updates provided in Call for Evidence 2: e.g. SNH and MS funded report – Development of a monitoring protocol for assessing use of seal haul-outs in the Sound of Islay. Also, SNH Bill Band Collision Risk Guidance has been out for consultation, recommendations are currently being addressed - due for publication in next few months.
- Formal link with DECC needs to be established as DECC is a potential funding stream with similar aims to ORJIP OE and would be a way to access funds that could help advance ORJIP OE priority projects.

### Tidal Lagoon Power (TC)

- Cardiff baseline surveys ongoing. Over-wintering birds in Severn Estuary SPA. Work carried out by BTO co-ordinating WeBS surveyors.
- Study looking at how birds used the footprint of the lagoon in the estuary. Radio-tagging of four species. BTO project with WWT involvement. Looking at site fidelity and cross over between sites. Will share results of study when available.
- Fish tagging work in Swansea. Additional work at Cardiff possibly later this year.
- Ongoing quarterly fish surveys in Cardiff/Newport area of estuary. Information will be available when EIA is published.
- Key issue is the level of survey effort/baseline data that is required. Two years versus one year. BTO has data covering 30+ years. Is novel survey data really required?
- Marine mammals – Initial discussions around two years of survey data. Still in process of discussing scopes with Regulators. Hopefully after one year will be able to show that second year of data is not required.
- TLP has committed to funding two PhDs – one on *Sabellaria* and the other on non-native invasive species.
- Reiterated usefulness of DECC involvement in ORJIP OE.
- There are many forums, partnerships and organisations with various remits. Stated that it would be useful to have everything in one place to avoid duplication of effort.
- TLP commissioned a study on the benefits of tidal lagoons on flood and coastal erosion protection. Socio-economic benefit. Cardiff development has been used as an example. Report due in summer 2016. (WD)

### DP Energy (CM)

Highlighted that the issues for DP Energy's sites are:

- draft Special Protection Areas – a way forward needs to be resolved
- Use of PBR and PCoD for seals in Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters needs to be discussed. Suggest using PCoD as an alternative to PBR rather than starting anew which could set things back.
- An approach for collision risk assessment for arrays with a mixture of technologies is needed
- Two years of baseline data collection may not provide data suitable for use in assessments e.g. often not possible to estimate absolute densities of marine mammals. When is absence of evidence, evidence of absence? The use of existing generic datasets such as SCAN data results in overestimates. A way forward needs to be resolved.

- MOD needs to be engaged in process. MOD have raised issue of impact of turbine operational noise on submarine navigation systems.
- Collision risk assessment requirements for fish needs to be discussed/scoped out

### **NRW (KS)**

- NRW funding is limited. NRW are working with SEACAMS to influence works e.g. seal telemetry work in South Wales also photo ID monitoring work rather than funding new projects.
- NRW looking at Marine Scotland's Survey Deploy and Monitor Strategy. Could assess risk on a receptor basis. Work ongoing with Carol Sparling from SMRU Consulting looking at sensitivity of species and 'riskiness' of development.
- Approach to baseline site characterisation surveys for marine mammals – absolute density estimates are not realistic. SMRU Consulting are looking at developing a 'decision tree'. What questions should be answered to reduce uncertainty?
- Recommendations from NRW's commissioned report *Guidance to inform marine mammal site characterisation requirements at wave and tidal stream energy sites in Wales* (SMRU Consulting, 2015) is now available and should be included in Forward Look.
- NRW is providing funding for a study by SEACAMS/Morlais/NRW licensing exploring principles that could be used to design a flexible design envelope using Morlais demonstration zone as a case study focussing on marine mammals. Receptor impact pathway basis rather than technology-led design envelopes. This study relies on funding not being pulled. Will find out next week if study is to go ahead or not.
- NRW exploring outputs of Cardiff Demonstration Zone workshop.

### **Meygen/Atlantis (CD)**

- Highlighted acquisition of MCT by Atlantis. SeaGen project – decommissioning due to commence June 2016 with an aim of completing works by June 2017.
- Meygen - Successful installation of four subsea cables in September 2015 by horizontal directional drilling. Installation of devices on track for later in 2016.

### **Marine Scotland (RM)**

- MS/SNH workshop planned for early this year to look at methods for assessing impacts to seal populations. This will include various methods, such as PBR, iPCOD and PVA. The workshop will take place on 3rd February.
- EMF – MSS salmon and eel work is now complete. There was no obvious response of salmon or eels to levels of EMF greater than those likely to be encountered near AC cables. Marine Scotland has no plans for further EMF work at present.
- Suggested considering producing a Position Paper that would draw a line under the EMF issue in most situations.

*IH noted that Annex IV State of Science report has a chapter on EMF written by Andrew Gill, Cranfield University.*

- Marine Scotland Scottish Offshore Renewables Research Framework (SpORRAN) - First Steering Group meeting of SpORRAN held. Seven sub-groups are currently being formed: birds/marine mammals/diadromous fish/marine fish/benthic/socioeconomic/geomorphology & coastal processes.
- SpORRAN would be a way to progress actions in ORJIP OE Forward Look. Aim is to avoid duplication and to complement ORJIP OE.
- No budget currently available from MS for funding research.

- Beyond identification of priorities and needs, it would be useful if ORJIP OE could present a review of research undertaken and make recommendations around what has been learned so far for use in influencing/streamlining consenting of future applications. Output would be Position Papers which would remove the time lag in waiting for publication of research.
- SACs for harbour porpoise –Ministers have decided not to consult on the draft sites recommended by the SNCBs. Marine Scotland is now developing a process in order to identify suitable sites - <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork>.