Coast Bordeaux 2017

Risk Based Consenting of Offshore Renewable Energy Projects

Juan Bald*, Iratxe Menchaca, Anne Marie O'Hagan, Celia Le Lievre, Ross Culloch, Finlay Bennet, Teresa Simas and Pierre Mascarenhas



*jbald@azti.es www.azti.es





INTRODUCTION	MIA	RESULTS	WHAT NEXT?

The development of Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)* projects is facing different challenges:

- Technology costs
- Transmission grid infrastructure RiC朱RE
- Consenting procedures
- Environmental impacts
- Grant and revenue support

*defined as offshore wind, wave and tidal

SURVEY, DEPLOY AND MONITOR LICENSING POLICY GUIDANCE

Introduction

The intention of the policy is to provide regulators, and developers, with an efficient risk-based approach for taking forward wave and tidal energy proposals. It distinguishes between those proposed developments for which there are sufficient grounds to seek determination on a consent application based on a minimum of 1 year of wildlife survey effort and analysis to develop site characterisation pre-application¹, and those where a greater level of site characterisation is required. This would provide an assurance that those developments that are larger in scale or in more environmentally sensitive areas are based upon an evidence based understanding of the impacts of the devices, and allow licensing and statutory advisors to base any licensing decisions on greater awareness and knowledge.

This policy will only be applied following discussion with Marine Scotland. Developers will still be required to undertake assessments required as part of the statutory licensing and consenting process, such as the provision of Environmental Impact Assessments and other procedures necessary for compliance with national and European conservation legislation.

The policy is based upon 3 main factors:

- Environmental Sensitivity (of the proposed development location)
- 2. Scale of Development; and
- 3. Device (or Technology) Classification.

http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/ marine/Applications/SDM





INTRODUCTION	AIM	RESULTS	WHAT NEXT?

Project funded by the European Commision (H2020) LCE-04-2014 Call for competitive low-carbon energy

Duration: 18 months (January 2015 - June 2016)







INTRODUCTION	AIM	RESULTS	WHAT NEXT?

To ensure the successful development of the ORE in the EU member states by reducing the cost and time taken to consent projects through the development of a **risk based approach** inspired in the principles developed by the SDM Policy developed by Marine Scotland





AIM

WP Project Management ROBERT GORDON The primary objective was to understand the consenting requirements across participant Member States, with a WP particular focus on environmental requirements, and their 2 effect as a non-technical barrier on offshore renewable University College Cork, Ireland Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh energy development The primary objective was to further develop the SDM policy guidance, pioneered by Marine Scotland, WP to include all relevant technologies in the ORE sector, 3 including the adaptation of the policy as new technologies are developed **RiC % RE** A key outcome of this work package was the development of WP guidance for pre-consent surveys considering the spectrum of survey requirements of existing project experience. The 4 guidance encompasses the transferability of methods and technologies among MRE types The focus of this work package was the development of WP best practice for post consent and post deployment marinescotland 5 monitoring strategies, including industry standards whe appropriate WP Communication and disseminatic ROBERT GORDON 6 **IINIVERSITY ABERDEEN**









INTRODUCTION	AIM	RESULTS	WHAT NEXT?

The project has used a combination of:

1) Desk based research

2) Expert workshops:

- Workshop 1: WP4+5 April 2015 (Bilbao)
- Workshop 2: WP2 May 2015 (Paris)
- Workshop 3: WP3 + 2,4,5 September 2015 (RGU)
- Workshop 4: WP2,3,4,5 March 2016 (Lisbon)
- Final project conference Sept 2016 (Brussels)

Experts have been engaged from different stakeholder groups including developers, scientists, regulators, legislators, development agencies, academia and representatives of other marine users and special interest groups





INTRODUCTION	AIM	RESULTS	WHAT NEXT?

- The absence of an ORE-specific consenting process, the lack of clear and focused EIA guidance, and multiple competent authorities are key barriers to project consenting.
 - The legal basis for Adaptive Management is not a problem but entrenched administrative processes may hamper the ability to take an Adaptive Management approach.
 - There appears to be little consistency in the approaches taken to measure or interpret environmental data and information between and within Member States.
 - In many instances the presence of a European protected site or species under nature conservation legislation complicates consenting of ORE projects.
 - Guidance is needed to explain Adaptive Management and risk-based approaches to regulators and developers as well as other marine users





WP 3 Following the description of the SDM policy and the analysis of the case studies different aspects of improvement were identified:

- (i) extend the risk-based approach to post-consenting processes;
- (ii) update the criteria for the evaluation of the scale of the project;
- (iii) establish a set of common criteria for the evaluation of the environmental sensitivity of a specific location;
- (iv) update and review of the expected environmental impacts of the different technologies;
- (v) Include some guidance on the methodology for pre- and postconsenting monitoring and;
- (vi) introduce the aspect of uncertainty in the risk based approach.





INTRODUCTION	MIA	RESULTS	WHAT NEXT?
		• • • •	

- Information on pre-consent monitoring practices has been compiled for the assessment of the effects of MRE developments on relevant receptors. In general, methodologies to assess most of the parameters identified for each receptor seemed to be applicable to all MRE types.
 - The use of power analysis can provide useful information on the ability of data gathered to create a baseline for detecting change.
 - Under this work package workshop attendees provided feedback on post-consent monitoring approaches during workshops.
 - The RiCORE project has identified that post-consent monitoring is able to meaningfully reduce key scientific uncertainties remains challenging.
 - A further task is to identify the key scientific issues that can hinder the provision of results that are useful in the context of risk-based decision making.



WP 5



http://ricore-project.eu/



About

The aim of the RiCORE project is to establish a risk-based approach to consenting where the level of survey requirement is based on the environmental sensitivity of the site, the risk profile of the technology and the scale of the proposed project. The project, which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, will run between January 1st 2015 and June 30th 2016.

The consenting of offshore renewable energy is often cited as one of the main non-technical barriers to the development of this sector. A significant aspect of this is the uncertainty inherent in



the potential environmental impacts of novel technology. To ensure consents are compliant with EU and national legislation, such as the Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Directive, costly and time consuming surveys are required even for perceived lower risk technologies in sites which may not be of highest environmental sensitivity.

The RICORE project will study the legal framework in place in the partner Member States to ensure the framework developed will be applicable for roll out across these Member States and further afield. The next stage of the RiCORE project is to consider the practices, methodologies and implementation of pre-consent surveys, post consent and













THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!

Ricore Risk Based Consenting of Offshore Renewable Energy Projects

Juan Bald*, Iratxe Menchaca, Anne Marie O'Hagan, Celia Le Lievre, Ross Culloch, Finlay Bennet, Teresa Simas and Pierre Mascarenhas



*jbald@azti.es www.azti.es



